

OCTOBER 1955

VOLUME I • NUMBER 10

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

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VACANCY RATES

APPRENTICE TRAINING

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At a Glance

NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN SEPTEMBER--New construction activity increased to an alltime monthly high of \$4 billion in September to round out the most active quarter on record. The \$11.9-billion total for the quarter was 9 percent higher than the July-September total last year. Seasonally adjusted new construction activity in the third quarter of 1955 was at an annual rate of \$41.8 billion, compared with actual outlays of \$37.6 billion in 1954. Commercial building continued at a record-breaking rate in September, and expenditures for churches and private industrial facilities surpassed all previous monthly totals. Although private residential building continued to edge off in September, the third quarter set a new record of nearly \$4.5 billion.

HOUSING STARTS IN AUGUST--Nonfarm housing starts rose by 8,000 units to 123,000 in August, after an unusually large decrease in July. August starts this year exceeded all previous totals for the month except for the record year 1950. The 7-percent increase between July and August reflected gains in all sections of the country, and was about equally balanced between homes financed with conventional mortgages and those with Government-assisted loans. The 121,700 privately owned units started in August represent a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,304,000 units. During the first 8 months of 1955 almost 928,000 units (public and private) were started--16 percent more than during the same period last year.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN AUGUST--Nonfarm housing starts under both FHA and VA programs rose in August after a dip in July. The proportion of total nonfarm housing starts having FHA or VA assistance continued at about 55 percent for the third consecutive month. VA starts reached a new high in August, and FHA starts, which had declined from a peak in June, were about the same as in August 1954. In anticipation of starts, both applications for FHA insurance and requests for VA appraisals also rose in August after a decline in July, but the August figures were substantially below the record levels of last spring.

NONFARM MORTGAGES IN JULY--From the alltime peak in June, the value of nonfarm mortgages recorded in July declined 6.5 percent--to about \$2.5 billion. All types of lenders shared in the decrease. The average mortgage recorded continued to increase in July, however, to a new high of \$7,348. Since savings and loan associations have been extending almost 40 percent of the nonfarm mortgage credit, further reduction in the total may result from the curb on member borrowing from district Home Loan Banks for mortgage lending, announced in mid-September by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (see Construction Regulations, this issue).

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY IN AUGUST--Permit valuations for practically all types of new building construction except office buildings made a substantial recovery in August after the usual midsummer decline in July. Total valuations were 16 percent higher this August than a year ago. For the first 8 months, valuations were over 20 percent higher in 1955 than in 1954, with residential building responsible for almost four-fifths of the gain.

PUBLIC CONTRACTS AWARDED IN JULY--Contracts for public projects in July showed customary declines from June peaks. The 86-percent drop in Federal awards in July pulled the Federal total for the first 7 months of 1955 to 2 percent below the comparable 1954 figure. Although contracts awarded by State and local governments declined 15 percent in July, their 7-month total was high enough to offset the Federal loss so that the value of all public construction awards was 6 percent higher in 1955 than in 1954.

CONTRACTS AWARDED IN THE 37 EASTERN STATES IN AUGUST--The \$1.9 billion of contracts awarded in August in the 37 States east of the Rockies was about 17 percent below the level of the previous two months, but 20 percent higher than the August 1954 total. The major reduction from July to August was in nonresidential building.

At a Glance

For the first 8 months of the year, contract values were running 27 percent higher in 1955 than in 1954, and at \$16.1 billion represented the highest figure on record for a January-August period.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN AUGUST--Construction costs, as measured by the Department of Commerce Composite Cost Index, rose slightly in August to a new high--126.3 percent of the 1947-49 average or 4 percent over the August 1954 index. Costs have crept up steadily since February, but the only rise of a point or more occurred in July, reflecting principally substantial increases in materials prices.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN AUGUST--The sharp advance in wholesale prices of building materials that began in July was accelerated in August when the index rose 1.7 points to a new peak of 127.4. Metal products--largely in response to rising prices of copper, steel, and aluminum--accounted for more than 60 percent of the increase. Prices for practically every type of plumbing and heating equipment reflected these higher costs. Lumber prices also rose as construction continued at record levels. Asphalt roofing prices exceeded the previous peak reached in July by 3 percent. Brick, structural tile, building lime, and concrete aggregates registered price rises, as did some paint materials.

BUILDING MATERIALS OUTPUT IN JULY--Production of Portland cement rose to an alltime high in July. Despite production gains, however, cement stocks were below the level of a year ago, with demand building up to its customary peak in October when serious local shortages have been predicted. Output of other major building materials declined seasonally, but only asphalt products and paint, varnish, and lacquer fell below the year-ago level. Although lumber and wood production was 27 percent higher this July than last, stocks of softwood lumber were at their lowest since July 1952. A 27-percent gain in output was also recorded for heating and plumbing equipment. Smaller increases over July 1954 output were made in millwork and clay construction products. The index for iron and steel products was up 5 percent over July 1954, but during the same period the backlog of orders for one of its major components--fabricated structural steel--rose almost 16 percent.

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST--Employment on contract construction continued to rise in August. The 2,729,000 employed this August was about the same as last August--the peak month for 1954. State employment figures available through July show that in a majority of States employment was higher this July than a year ago. Of the 8 States reporting more than 100,000 contract construction workers, only Michigan had employment noticeably below the level of previous Julys.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN JULY--Weekly earnings in contract construction continued their usual summer rise and reached a new peak of \$98.94 in July--more than \$2 above the average for both the previous month and July 1954. The gains this July over a year ago reflect the combined effect of higher wage rates and a slightly longer workweek. Wage increases over the year in all branches of contract construction, and overtime and premium pay on many projects, pushed average hourly earnings for the industry up about 7 cents--to \$2.59 in July 1955. The usual summer overtime on highway and street projects lengthened the average workweek on such jobs between June and July 1955 by a full hour, to 43.5 hours; for all types of construction the average was 38.2 hours.

APPRENTICES IN BUILDING TRADES, SECOND QUARTER 1955--The number of registered apprentices in building trades continued to increase during the second quarter of 1955. In all of the major trades more apprentices were registered at the end of June 1955 than a year earlier. Gains over the year occurred in nearly all parts of the country except the South. Especially heavy reductions in registered apprentices have occurred since 1953 in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. These reductions coincide with the completion of atomic energy and other major defense and military projects in these States, on which large numbers of apprentices were trained.

Housing Vacancies in 1955

BENJAMIN D. KAPLAN*

Vacant housing that was available for rent or sale amounted to 2.3 percent of all dwelling units in the United States during the second quarter of 1955. The rate was 1.6 percent at the time of the previous survey in April 1950 when a housing shortage existed in many areas and selection was limited. Over the 5-year period, the ratio of vacant units for sale remained unchanged at 0.5 percent of all dwelling units, whereas rental vacancies increased from 1.1 to 1.8 percent. Vacant dwelling units awaiting occupancy (after being rented or sold) and those otherwise held off the market increased moderately as a percent of the total, from 1.7 to 2.0 percent, but little change occurred in the ratio of vacant seasonal and of dilapidated dwelling units.

These are some of the findings of a recent housing vacancy survey sponsored by the Business and Defense Services Administration of the Department of Commerce and conducted by the Bureau of the Census.¹ Since the 1955 statistics are based on a sample and are expressed as percentages either of total dwelling units or of all vacant dwelling units, the results should be interpreted with caution. As in all sample surveys, the data are subject to statistical error, with the variability somewhat greater for more detailed data than for overall totals. Small differences between figures may not be significant statistically. Further, data expressed as percentages offer no precise information on absolute numbers.

The survey covered the characteristics of vacant dwelling units only. Since housing may be vacant because it is unique in some way, it is not valid to impute to occupied dwelling units the characteristics of vacant units.

Regional Variations

The regional distribution of 1955 vacancies by the condition and status of the dwelling units shows that each region has unique characteristics (table 1). The Northeast has the lowest rate of vacancies available for occupancy while its seasonal housing comprises a larger proportion (4.5 percent) of total dwelling units than in other regions. The level of available vacancies in the West, almost 4.0 percent of its total stock of dwelling units, is the highest of any region and may signify some local housing surplus. In the North Central States, a dearth of housing may be indicated by the 0.3-percent vacancy rate among dwelling units for sale. In the South, with about 1 in 40 homes vacant and dilapidated, it appears that dilapidated dwelling units either are being vacated at a relatively rapid rate or they are not being demolished or converted to other uses as they become vacant. Unfortunately, the survey was not sufficiently exhaustive to yield information on the characteristics of housing vacancies within regions.

Since 1950, some notable regional differences have developed. While three of the regions showed increases in the rates of vacancies available for occupancy, the Northeast showed almost no change. During both 1950 and 1955, it had the lowest percentage of dwelling units not in the market, i.e., those rented or sold and awaiting occupancy, and those withdrawn for other reasons. Since 1950, the combined rate of these vacancies in the Northeast dropped from 1.4 to 1.0 percent, the only decline in the four regions. The South and West, which have experienced the most rapid economic development among regions, still continue in 1955 as in 1950 to have the highest vacancy rates among dwelling units for rent.

Urban-Rural Differences

Vacancy rates inside and outside metropolitan areas in 1955 have a relationship that resembles in most cases the relationship between rates in the urban and rural areas (table 1). The vacancy rates

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¹ Detailed final results, with definitions and technical notes, appear in Housing and Construction Report: Vacant Dwelling Units in the United States, Second Quarter 1955. Series H-111, No. 1. For sale by the Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C. Price 10 cents. Preliminary summary results of this survey appeared in the July 1955 issue of Construction Review.

for urban dwelling units available for occupancy, and those rented or sold awaiting occupancy, are approximately the same as for the corresponding rural classifications. The aggregate rate for rural housing units which are seasonal, dilapidated, or held off the market--11.8 percent--is appreciably higher than the 1.8-percent level for the corresponding types of urban vacancies. The higher rural rates reflect the steady diminution of farm households and population, as well as the concentration of seasonal units in rural places. Since 1950, farm population has declined about 12 percent--from 25.1 million to 22.2 million--and rural farm households have dropped by the same percentage--from 6.3 million to 5.5 million. It appears that the declining farm population is eroding the demand for farm housing, and that such homes either are being abandoned, or are being held off the market to await disposition at a later date. The high incidence of seasonal dwelling units in rural areas is due largely to the location of many resort places in rural areas.

TABLE 1.—HOUSING VACANCY RATES: CONDITION, STATUS, AND LOCATION,
SECOND QUARTER 1955 AND APRIL 1950

(Percent distribution)

Condition and status of dwelling units	Second quarter 1955					April 1950				
	All places	North-east	North Central	South	West	All places	North-east	North Central	South	West
ALL DWELLING UNITS	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Vacant dwelling units:										
Available for occupancy ¹	2.3	1.2	1.7	2.9	3.9	1.6	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.7
For rent ²	(1.8)	(.8)	(1.4)	(2.5)	(3.0)	(1.1)	(.7)	(.7)	(1.5)	(2.0)
For sale only	(.5)	(.4)	(.3)	(.4)	(.9)	(.5)	(.4)	(.4)	(.5)	(.7)
Rented or sold, awaiting occupancy ¹ .....	.5	.5	.5	.3	.6	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.3
Held off market, not awaiting occupancy ^{1 3}	1.5	.5	1.2	2.1	2.7					
Dilapidated ³	1.2	.5	.9	2.5	1.0					
Seasonal dwelling units ³	2.6	4.5	1.5	1.4	3.7	2.5	3.9	2.2	1.4	2.3
Occupied dwelling units	91.9	92.8	94.2	90.8	88.1	93.1	93.2	94.4	92.5	91.7
	All places	Inside— Standard metro- politan areas	Outside— Urban	Rural		All places	Inside— Standard metro- politan areas	Outside— Urban	Rural	
ALL DWELLING UNITS	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Vacant dwelling units:										
Available for occupancy ¹	2.3	2.0	2.7	2.2	2.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5
For rent	(1.8)	(1.6)	(2.1)	(1.9)	(1.7)	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.2)	(1.0)
For sale only	(.5)	(.4)	(.6)	(.3)	(.7)	(.5)	(.5)	(.4)	(.5)	(.5)
Rented or sold, awaiting occupancy .....	.5	.5	.4	.5	.5	1.7	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.9
Held off market, not awaiting occupancy ^{1 3}	1.5	.8	2.6	.7	2.9					
Dilapidated ³	1.2	.5	2.3	.5	2.6					
Seasonal dwelling units ³	2.6	1.2	4.7	.6	6.3	2.5	1.1	4.0	.6	5.8
Occupied dwelling units	91.9	95.0	87.3	95.5	85.3	93.1	95.7	90.0	96.4	87.3

¹ Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units.

² Comprises vacant units offered for rent, as well as those being offered for rent or for sale.

³ In addition to unoccupied units, includes units temporarily occupied by nonresidents—those whose usual place of residence is elsewhere.

Size of Vacant Units

Half of all vacant dwelling units available for rent or sale in 1955 contain less than 3.6 rooms, compared with 3.8 rooms in 1950 (table 2). These figures reflect decreases in the average size of vacancies in metropolitan areas only (3.9 to 3.4 rooms). An important factor behind this decline is probably the increasing demand of a growing number of larger families for more spacious quarters, causing vacancies to become more numerous among the smaller units of 3 rooms or less.

Along with the declining size of vacancies available in metropolitan areas, the one-dwelling-unit structures available declined from 49 percent of the metropolitan area vacancy total in 1950 to 35 percent in 1955. Since the average dwelling unit in a multiple-unit structure usually has fewer rooms than the one-family house, the increase in the percentage of vacancies in multiple-unit buildings accounts for the depressed size of the average vacancy. From 1950 to 1955, vacancies outside standard metropolitan areas showed no significant change with respect to the number of dwelling units in the structure.

TABLE 2.—VACANCIES AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY: ROOM COUNT, NUMBER OF UNITS IN STRUCTURE, LOCATION, AND RENTAL-SALE CLASSIFICATION, FIRST QUARTER 1955 AND APRIL 1950¹

(Percent distribution)								
Selected characteristics	All places		Inside metro- politan areas		Outside metro- politan areas		For rent	For sale
	2d quar. 1955	Apr. 1950	2d quar. 1955	Apr. 1950	2d quar. 1955	Apr. 1950	2d quar. 1955	
NUMBER OF ROOMS:								
All vacancies.....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
One and two	24	22	29	20	19	24	29	4
Three	24	21	22	20	27	23	28	10
Four.....	24	26	21	27	26	25	24	22
Five.....	16	17	14	19	17	14	12	30
Six or more	12	14	13	14	11	14	7	34
Median number of rooms	(3.6)	(3.8)	(3.4)	(3.9)	(3.7)	(3.6)	(3.3)	(5.0)
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS:²								
All vacancies.....	100	--	100	--	100	--	100	100
None.....	10	--	12	--	8	--	12	2
One	41	--	43	--	38	--	47	16
Two	33	--	28	--	38	--	31	40
Three.....	12	--	13	--	12	--	8	29
Four or more.....	4	--	4	--	4	--	2	13
DWELLING UNITS IN STRUCTURE:²								
All structures.....	100	100	100	100	100	100	--	--
One	51	57	35	49	68	68	--	--
Two	18	12	22	13	14	12	--	--
Three and four	13	12	14	12	11	10	--	--
Five or more.....	18	19	29	26	7	10	--	--
NUMBER OF MONTHS VACANT:²								
All vacancies.....	100	--	100	--	100	--	100	100
Less than one	33	--	39	--	26	--	37	16
One to two	12	--	15	--	10	--	14	8
Two to three	11	--	14	--	9	--	12	10
Three to four	8	--	10	--	6	--	7	11
Four or more.....	36	--	22	--	49	--	30	55

¹ Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units.

² Comparable data not available for all distributions shown here.

Differences in Rental-Sales Vacancies

The vacant dwelling units for sale in 1955 tend to be larger than those for rent (table 2). The median rental vacancy has 3.3 rooms while the median sale unit has 5.0 rooms. Although survey results disclose that almost two-thirds of the single-dwelling-unit structures available for occupancy are in the rental market, they are not numerous enough among total rental units to affect appreciably the size difference between total rental and total sales vacancies.

The distribution of dwelling units by duration of vacancy indicates two concentrations, one among the homes vacant for less than a month and another among those vacant 4 months or longer. Thus it appears that vacancies are either rented or sold during the first month or they tend to remain vacant for much longer periods. This suggests that vacancies are largely of two types. One is the "frictional"

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vacancy--the vacant unit resulting from population movements not associated with the adequacy of living quarters. The other type of vacancy is that which does not meet consumer acceptance, as suggested by unpublished rental vacancy data which imply that the low-rent units (more likely to have undesirable features) are vacant for longer periods than high-rent units.

TABLE 3.--NONFARM VACANCIES AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY: MONTHLY RENTAL AND SALE PRICE, BY LOCATION, SECOND QUARTER 1955 AND APRIL 1950¹

Monthly rent and sale price	(Percent distribution)					
	Second quarter 1955			April 1950		
	All places	Inside-- Standard metro- politan areas	Outside--	All places	Inside-- Standard metro- politan areas	Outside--
MONTHLY RENT ASKED:						
Total reporting.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than \$20	9	3	17	12	5	21
\$20 to \$29	15	11	19	15	11	20
\$30 to \$39	17	14	20	18	18	20
\$40 to \$49	19	20	18	15	15	13
\$50 to \$59	13	14	12	11	12	10
\$60 to \$74	13	16	10	12	14	8
\$75 to \$99	9	14	3	10	15	4
\$100 or more	5	8	1	7	10	4
Median monthly rent.....	(\$44)	(\$50)	(\$36)	(\$43)	(\$50)	(\$34)
SALE PRICE ASKED:						
Total reporting.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than \$5,000.....	21	6	42	17	9	36
\$5,000 to \$7,999	17	11	24	27	26	30
\$8,000 to \$9,999	12	10	13	22	26	15
\$10,000 to \$14,999	29	38	17	22	25	12
\$15,000 or more	21	35	4	12	14	7
Median sales price	(\$10,200)	(\$12,400)	(\$6,500)	(\$8,500)	(\$9,100)	(\$6,300)

¹ Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units.

Rental and Sales Values

The statistics on monthly rental charges and sales prices (tables 3, 4, and 5) are restricted to nonfarm units because the data for farm dwellings are not sufficiently reliable for separate treatment owing to limitations of the survey.

Although the median rental for available nonfarm vacancies is about the same in 1955 as it was 5 years earlier, the 1955 selling price is 20 percent higher. Neither the statistics themselves nor any of the collateral information collected in the survey offered any satisfactory explanation for the disparity. The proportion of vacancies within each of the sale price and rental classes has changed. This suggests the possibility that the relationship between the nature of the supply of vacancies, and the nature of the demand for housing, has also changed during the last 5 years. This does not imply that on specific vacancies rentals have remained unchanged or that selling prices have gone up.

Characteristics of Nonfarm Vacancies

The classification of nonfarm rental vacancies by amount of monthly rental shows some noteworthy relationships with respect to the size of dwelling units, the inclusion or exclusion of utilities, and the number of dwelling units in the structure (table 4). Although the size of the vacant dwelling unit, in terms of room count, becomes larger as the rental increases, the majority of vacancies under \$100 have 3 to 4 rooms. At rentals over \$100, 41 percent of the vacancies have 5-or-more rooms. As for utilities, the higher the rent, the more frequently utilities are included. At \$30 or less per month, the rent includes all utilities for only about 1 out of 6 dwelling units in this rent class, while for those renting at \$100 or more, almost half of the vacancies are offered with utilities. With respect to the types

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of structures containing vacant dwelling units, vacancies renting for less than \$30 per month are concentrated in single-dwelling-unit structures with a secondary concentration in structures of 5-or-more dwelling units. A similar distribution characterizes the vacancies being offered at \$100 or more per month.

TABLE 4.—NONFARM VACANCIES AVAILABLE FOR RENT: ROOM COUNT, INCLUSION OF UTILITIES, AND NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS IN STRUCTURE, BY MONTHLY RENT, SECOND QUARTER 1955¹

(Percent distribution)						
Selected characteristics	Reporting monthly rent	Less than \$30	\$30 to \$49	\$50 to \$74	\$75 to \$99	\$100 or more
TOTAL REPORTING RENT	100	24	36	26	9	5
NUMBER OF ROOMS:						
Total reporting.....	100	100	100	100	100	190
One and two.....	31	40	37	23	16	17
Three and four	53	52	55	53	58	42
Five and six.....	14	7	7	21	24	33
Seven or more.....	2	1	1	3	2	8
UTILITIES INCLUDED:						
Total reporting	100	100	100	100	100	100
All utilities included	24	17	27	25	24	43
Some or none included	76	83	73	75	76	57
DWELLING UNITS IN STRUCTURE:						
Total reporting.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
One	37	55	31	30	32	38
Two	22	11	25	26	29	25
Three and four	17	14	21	20	2	6
Five or more.....	24	20	23	24	37	31

¹ Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units.

The nonfarm vacancies are fairly evenly distributed pricewise with the exception of the \$8,000-\$9,999 range, which comprises only a little more than a tenth of the sale vacancies (table 5). One-half of the available sales units are in the \$10,000-plus classes. Of all nonfarm sales vacancies, one-half have 5 to 6 rooms. The predominant sizes are 3 to 4 rooms in the \$5,000-or-less price class and 5 to 6 rooms in the \$10,000-\$14,999 range. None of the units priced above \$15,000 have less than 5 rooms and 45 percent have 7 rooms or more.

TABLE 5.—NONFARM VACANCIES AVAILABLE FOR SALE: SIZE OF DWELLING UNIT BY SALE PRICE, SECOND QUARTER 1955

(Percent distribution)						
Number of rooms	Reporting sale price	Less than \$5,000	\$5,000 to \$7,999	\$8,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$15,000 or more
TOTAL REPORTING SALE PRICE	100	21	17	12	29	21
NUMBER OF ROOMS:						
Total reporting	100	100	100	100	100	100
One and two	2	9	0	0	0	0
Three and four	28	80	25	32	11	0
Five and six.....	51	9	58	52	74	55
Seven or more.....	19	2	17	16	15	45

¹ Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units.

Apprentice Training in the Building Trades, 1950-55

JOHN S. MCCAULEY*

A marked increase in apprenticeship activities in the building trades occurred during the latter part of 1954 and early 1955, when management and labor organizations intensified their efforts to meet the growing need for craftsmen. This has been reflected in an increase in the number of registered apprentices in training, in contrast with the downward trend that prevailed earlier in the 1950's. Despite recent gains, a further increase in the number of apprentices is needed, especially in carpentry and painting.

The Apprenticeship System

Apprenticeship is learning by doing. Working under the watchful eye of a craftsman, the apprentice is given an opportunity to master a trade within a specified period of time (usually 3 or 4 years). Work assignments become progressively more difficult and are planned to provide experience in every aspect of a trade. This training is generally supplemented by classroom instruction in related theory.

The apprentice's growth in skill and knowledge is reflected in his paycheck. As he advances from one stage of training to the next, he receives an increasing proportion of the rate of pay of a full-fledged journeyman. In September 1955 the average entrance rate for the building trades apprentice was 46 percent of the journeyman rate, with an increase scheduled every 6 months until the final period of his apprenticeship when he receives 87 percent of the journeyman rate.¹

Despite the advantages of apprenticeship, many skilled jobs in the industry, especially during periods of serious manpower shortage, are filled by workers who have "picked up" a trade. This procedure is less efficient than apprenticeship and seldom results in mastery of a trade. Most of these partially trained workers acquired their skills while employed on construction projects where no apprentice program was in operation. This is frequently the case on relatively small projects where management and labor have not thought the size of the project warranted investing the time and effort required to develop apprentice training systems.

Leadership on the National Level

To promote sound training in the building trades, labor and management organizations on the national level devote considerable time and effort to apprenticeship activities. One of the leading employer organizations, the Associated General Contractors of America, has launched a nationwide campaign to increase the number of apprentices employed by its members. During 1955 this organization expanded its national apprenticeship committee from 10 to 25 members; subcommittees have been established in its 12 districts. The National Association of Home Builders has also urged its members to train more apprentices. A number of other employer associations promote the development of apprenticeship programs in particular trades.²

Each international union in the building trades also is active in helping new workers attain journeyman status. Apprenticeship coordinators are employed by several of these unions. The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry recently increased the number of its staff having such assignments, and became the first union to employ as many as four full-time apprenticeship coordinators.

Many of the promotional activities on the national level are sponsored jointly by labor and management. The General Committee on Apprenticeship for the Construction Industry is composed of repre-

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¹ For a more detailed description of apprenticeship, see The National Apprenticeship Program, U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship, Washington, D. C. (1953.)

² Employer groups encouraging apprenticeship training include the National Electrical Contractors Association, Structural Clay Products Institute, National Association of Plumbing Contractors, Sheet Metal Contractors National Association, Painting and Decorating Contractors of America, Contracting Plasterers' International Association, National Roofing Contractors Association, Mason Contractors Association of America, National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association, National Automatic Sprinkler and Fire Control Association, and the Heating, Piping, and Air Conditioning Contractors of America.

sentatives of various labor and management organizations. Joint committees of labor and management also have been established at the national level for most trades. Each of the national committees formulates apprenticeship standards for its trade in cooperation with the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship.³ Standards are revised from time to time in the light of technological change. Nationwide apprenticeship contests have become another increasingly important factor in the promotion of apprenticeship in the industry.

Local Administration of Programs

A few employers in the construction industry operate their own apprentice training programs. This can prove to be very difficult, however. Some contractors may not be able to provide apprentices with regular employment because they do not have a steady demand for the various crafts. Furthermore, they may specialize in a certain type of construction and be unable to provide the well-rounded work experience required to master every aspect of a trade. To achieve effective training programs in local areas, committees of employers and trade union officials have been established in many communities. At present approximately 3,500 areawide joint apprenticeship committees are administering these programs.

The local joint apprenticeship committee for a particular trade plans the training program, interviews applicants, assigns apprentices, reviews their progress, and determines when an apprenticeship has been completed satisfactorily. A typical committee consists of three representatives each of employers and organized labor. Representatives of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, State apprenticeship agencies, and vocational education serve as consultants to joint apprenticeship committees. An increasing number of the committees employ staffs and raise funds to finance their activities. At least 266 committees have budgets, 83 of which exceed \$1,000 a year. Twenty-four of these committees employ full-time staffs and 54 employ part-time assistants. Much of the work of any joint apprenticeship committee, however, is performed by members without compensation.

Trends in the Number of Registered Apprentices

To encourage the development of sound training programs, a system of voluntary registration of apprentices and apprentice training programs has been established throughout the United States.⁴ The registration system, especially the certificate awarded at the completion of an apprenticeship, provides public recognition for this type of training. The status of the registered apprentice is recognized by the Selective Service System, the Veterans Administration, and other Government agencies. Certain standards must be met for an individual to qualify as an apprentice and for a program to be registered. However, it is known that not all the apprentices receiving good training are registered.⁵ Nevertheless, changes in the number of registered apprentices in the building trades during the 1950-55 period throw light on the trend in the total number of apprentices, because throughout the period a high proportion of apprentices in the construction industry were registered.

Apprentice registrations in most building trades were noticeably higher at the end of June 1955 than a year earlier. The rise in recent months interrupted a generally downward trend since 1950, when the unusually large number of separations exceeded the number of new registrations. The heavy volume of completions and other separations⁶ in the early 1950's included large numbers of World War II veterans who began apprentice training after their discharge from the armed services.

³ The Federal Committee on Apprenticeship is a committee appointed by the Secretary of Labor to develop general standards and policies for apprentice training in the United States. The Committee is composed of representatives of management, labor, and education.

⁴ Apprenticeship agencies which register apprentices and apprenticeship programs have been established in 28 States and the District of Columbia. Registration is handled for the remaining States by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship.

⁵ Statistics are not available on the number of unregistered apprentices. On the basis of reports from field representatives of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, it is estimated that there was 1 unregistered apprentice for about every 5 registered apprentices in the industry in August 1955. The number of registered apprentices in each State being trained in the major building trades is shown quarterly in Construction Review.

⁶ For a discussion of reasons for discontinuing apprenticeships before completion, see Follow-Up Study of Former Apprentices, U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship, Technical Bulletin No. T-143, December 1954.

Most of the major building trades experienced a decline in registered apprentices from 1950 to 1954, followed by the upturn in 1955. Carpenters, plumbers and pipefitters, painters, and the trowel trades followed this pattern, as shown in table 1. A similar downtrend among electricians and sheet-metal workers was reversed in 1953, and by 1955 the number of registered apprentices in these trades was higher than in 1950.

TABLE 1.—NUMBER OF REGISTERED APPRENTICES IN SELECTED BUILDING TRADES, 1950-55

Trade	Number of registered apprentices, as of June 30					
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Carpenter	32,120	29,306	23,204	25,050	21,404	23,750
Electrician.....	15,787	14,246	13,865	16,409	15,577	16,184
Ironworker.....	771	618	1,168	1,570	2,138	2,551
Painter and paperhanger	5,655	4,706	3,832	3,916	3,546	4,190
Plumber and pipefitter	22,253	19,603	18,522	19,710	18,504	20,483
Roofer.....	428	436	748	1,197	982	1,134
Sheet metal worker	9,661	8,667	7,664	8,868	8,964	9,877
Trowel trades	15,659	15,081	13,270	11,880	11,089	11,256

¹ Includes bricklayer, cement mason, marble setter, mosaic terrazzo layer, plasterer, stonemason, and tilesetter.

For ironworkers and roofers, apprentice registration expanded rapidly after 1951. In ironworking more than four times as many apprentices were registered in 1955 as in 1951. Contrary to the situation in most trades, the major part of this change may be due, not to an increase in the number of apprentices being trained, but rather to an increase in the proportion registered.

Number of Journeymen Per Apprentice

Management and union officials rely on certain rule-of-thumb relationships to assist them in deciding the number of apprentices to be trained. One of the more important of these relationships is the ratio of journeymen per apprentice in a trade at a given time. This ratio indicates the extent to which the number of apprentices being trained conforms to the needs of the trade. In determining the appropriate ratio many factors are considered. Among these are the employment outlook in the trade; anticipated journeyman losses from death, retirement, and disability; and the proportion of apprentices who may be expected to complete their training and become craftsmen.⁷

A good indication of the changes in the ratio of journeymen per apprentice in recent years (1950-54) is provided by data from building-trades unions in 52 large cities shown in table 2.⁸ In most trades in these cities the number of journeymen per apprentice tended to be higher in 1954 than in the years immediately preceding. This increase is due primarily to the fact previously noted that most construction trades trained fewer apprentices in 1954 than in 1950 and 1951.

The sharpest increases in the number of journeymen per apprentice between 1950 and 1954 were reported by the carpenters and the trowel trades. The number of journeymen per apprentice remained relatively stable for plumbers and pipefitters, roofers, and sheet metal workers. On the other hand, the number of ironworkers per apprentice declined significantly between 1950 and 1953, but increased somewhat in 1954.

A related indicator of whether enough apprentices are being trained is the extent to which journeyman losses are being replaced through apprenticeship. For every 1,000 journeymen employed during 1954 in the cities studied, approximately 17 were lost to the industry through death, retirement, or disability; but only 15 apprentices completed training programs. More detailed information on particular trades is given in table 2, which shows that some of the building trades were more successful than others in replacing journeymen losses. The bricklayers, electricians, sheet metal workers, plumbers

⁷ For a discussion of factors that influence the supply of craftsmen see the chapter on The Problem of Apprentice Training in the forthcoming book, *Labor Relations and Productivity in the Building Trades* by William Haber and Harold M. Levinson, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Mich.

⁸ Data on apprenticeship were obtained as a byproduct of an annual survey of wages and hours which has been summarized in BLS Bull. 1175, *Union Wages and Hours; Building Trades*, July 1, 1954. Similar data are not available for smaller communities; therefore, the coverage of table 2 is considerably more limited than that of table 1. However, it is likely that a higher ratio of journeymen per apprentice prevails in small communities than in large cities, as labor and management groups have promoted apprenticeship more intensively in the larger communities.

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TABLE 2.—COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF APPRENTICES AND JOURNEYMEN IN SELECTED BUILDING TRADES, 1950-54

Trade	Year	Active journeymen per apprentice	Apprentice completions--	Journeyman losses--
			Per 1,000 active journeymen	
Carpenter	1950	14.6	16	10
	1951	13.6	16	13
	1952	23.1	8	14
	1953	25.0	7	10
	1954	28.2	5	12
Electrician	1950	5.2	44	17
	1951	6.5	45	15
	1952	8.4	38	13
	1953	7.7	34	16
	1954	7.7	29	16
Ironworker.....	1950	21.9	18	18
	1951	14.8	21	23
	1952	14.0	18	16
	1953	13.0	14	18
	1954	17.0	18	25
Painter, paperhanger, glazier	1950	29.1	9	10
	1951	31.7	11	27
	1952	37.0	5	18
	1953	40.9	7	37
	1954	37.2	9	15
Plumber and pipefitter.....	1950	8.2	15	15
	1951	9.5	27	18
	1952	9.6	29	18
	1953	9.8	18	18
	1954	9.9	17	17
Roofer (composition, slate and tile).....	1950	8.9	45	25
	1951	6.9	51	34
	1952	6.8	43	27
	1953	8.4	36	28
	1954	8.6	31	28
Sheet metal worker	1950	6.6	43	14
	1951	8.2	35	22
	1952	7.7	33	13
	1953	8.7	22	11
	1954	8.6	22	14
Trowel trades: Bricklayer ²	1950	6.9	43	16
	1951	7.4	69	16
	1952	10.6	32	19
	1953	11.0	24	16
	1954	12.4	31	18
Plasterer and cement mason	1950	7.7	29	17
	1951	8.6	42	20
	1952	10.6	27	16
	1953	11.2	19	17
	1954	14.9	19	27

¹ Based on data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 52 cities with populations of 100,000 or more.² Includes marble setter, mosaic terrazzo layer, stonemason, and tilesetter.

and pipefitters, and roofers in 1954 reported at least as many apprentice completions as the number of journeymen lost to these trades. On the other hand, the carpenters had only 5 apprentice completions for every 12 journeymen lost to the trade; the painters had 9 for every 15 journeymen lost. In view of the high ratio of journeymen per apprentice reported by the carpenters and the painters, it is unlikely that these trades will train enough apprentices to replace journeymen losses during the next 2 or 3 years. If they sustain the upward trend evidenced in 1955, however, more favorable ratios are possible in subsequent years.

Part I--Construction Put in Place

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Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)					Percent change		
	1955		1954	First 9 months		Sept. 1955 from--		First 9 months, 1954-55
	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	1955	1954	Aug. 1955	Sept. 1954	
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	4,001	3,985	3,674	31,059	27,653	(1)	+ 9	+12
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,758	2,761	2,460	22,046	18,727	(1)	+12	+18
Residential building (nonfarm).....	1,467	1,484	1,327	11,973	9,624	- 1	+11	+24
New dwelling units.....	1,325	1,335	1,195	10,795	8,550	- 1	+11	+26
Additions and alterations.....	111	117	107	938	846	- 5	+ 4	+11
Nonhousekeeping.....	31	32	25	240	228	- 3	+24	+ 5
Nonresidential building.....	717	688	558	5,507	4,580	+ 4	+28	+20
Industrial.....	210	203	162	1,724	1,498	+ 3	+30	+15
Commercial.....	308	289	210	2,175	1,615	+ 7	+47	+35
Warehouses, office and loft buildings.....	101	99	88	805	692	+ 2	+15	+16
Stores, restaurants, and garages.....	207	190	122	1,370	923	+ 9	+70	+48
Other nonresidential building.....	199	196	186	1,608	1,467	+ 2	+ 7	+10
Religious.....	70	68	58	539	418	+ 3	+21	+29
Educational.....	44	43	50	366	387	+ 2	-12	- 5
Hospital and institutional.....	31	31	30	265	250	0	+ 3	+ 6
Social and recreational.....	22	23	22	181	166	- 4	0	+ 9
Miscellaneous.....	32	31	26	257	246	+ 3	+23	+ 4
Farm construction.....	137	150	153	1,111	1,235	- 9	-10	-10
Public utility.....	425	425	410	3,326	3,203	0	+ 4	+ 4
Railroad.....	24	26	28	230	259	- 8	-14	-11
Telephone and telegraph.....	60	60	57	515	493	0	+ 5	+ 4
Other public utility.....	341	339	325	2,581	2,451	+ 1	+ 5	+ 5
All other private.....	12	14	12	129	85	-14	0	+52
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,243	1,224	1,214	9,013	8,926	+ 2	+ 2	+ 1
Residential building.....	21	21	24	196	269	0	-13	-27
Nonresidential building.....	395	397	410	3,339	3,534	- 1	- 4	- 6
Industrial.....	61	60	106	640	1,195	+ 2	-42	-46
Educational.....	231	230	197	1,871	1,575	(1)	+17	+19
Hospital and institutional.....	29	32	33	265	281	- 9	-12	- 6
Other nonresidential building.....	74	75	74	563	483	- 1	0	+17
Military facilities.....	128	128	98	949	746	0	+31	+27
Highway.....	495	470	492	2,925	2,827	+ 5	+ 1	+ 3
Sewer and water.....	102	103	91	823	734	- 1	+12	+12
Public service enterprises.....	33	32	23	194	168	+ 3	+43	+15
Conservation and development.....	55	56	63	460	533	- 2	-13	-14
All other public.....	14	17	13	127	115	-18	+ 8	+10

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

NOTE: For all the statistical series shown in Construction Review, data for the latest months or quarter, and the most recent year, are subject to revision.

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Table 2.—New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1954				1955								
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION..	3,674	3,503	3,329	3,092	2,819	2,697	2,974	3,257	3,555	3,815	3,956	3,985	4,001
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,460	2,420	2,358	2,263	2,072	2,003	2,179	2,345	2,496	2,669	2,763	2,761	2,758
Residential building													
(nonfarm).....	1,327	1,321	1,293	1,258	1,122	1,049	1,170	1,298	1,380	1,480	1,523	1,484	1,467
New dwelling units	1,195	1,195	1,175	1,150	1,030	960	1,070	1,170	1,230	1,315	1,360	1,335	1,325
Additions and alterations.....	107	102	96	86	71	68	79	105	123	134	130	117	111
Nonhousekeeping.....	25	24	22	22	21	21	21	23	27	31	33	32	31
Nonresidential building	558	554	564	552	542	549	559	562	590	634	666	688	717
Industrial	162	170	178	184	186	187	186	184	183	189	196	203	210
Commercial.....	210	202	203	192	188	199	208	213	234	259	277	289	308
Warehouses, office and loft buildings	88	89	90	87	84	83	82	84	88	90	94	99	101
Stores, restaurants, and garages	122	113	113	105	104	116	126	129	146	169	183	190	207
Other nonresidential bldg.	186	182	183	176	168	163	165	165	173	186	193	196	199
Religious	58	59	59	57	55	53	53	54	58	62	66	68	70
Educational	50	49	48	45	42	39	41	40	37	39	41	43	44
Hospital & institutional	30	29	29	29	28	28	28	28	30	30	31	31	31
Social and recreational.....	22	22	21	19	18	17	16	17	20	24	24	23	22
Miscellaneous	26	23	26	26	25	26	27	26	28	31	31	31	32
Farm construction	153	126	106	93	92	95	103	114	131	141	148	150	137
Public utility	410	407	383	348	302	297	333	357	379	398	410	425	425
Railroad	28	38	28	28	20	19	25	28	29	30	29	26	24
Telephone and telegraph	57	56	55	51	50	50	55	55	60	60	65	60	60
Other public utility	325	313	300	269	232	228	253	274	290	308	316	339	341
All other private	12	12	12	12	14	13	14	14	16	16	16	14	12
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION.....	1,214	1,083	971	829	747	694	795	912	1,059	1,146	1,193	1,224	1,243
Residential building	24	23	22	22	22	21	23	22	22	23	21	21	21
Nonresidential building	410	390	366	351	342	316	354	366	379	397	393	397	395
Industrial	106	105	104	102	90	70	81	72	72	72	62	60	61
Educational	197	193	185	181	182	178	190	202	211	221	226	230	231
Hospital and institutional	33	31	28	25	25	23	28	31	32	33	32	32	29
Other nonresidential bldg.	74	61	49	43	45	45	55	61	64	71	73	75	74
Military facilities	98	101	95	88	82	78	83	99	110	118	123	128	128
Highway	492	389	320	214	155	150	180	255	360	410	450	470	495
Sewer and water	91	88	83	77	77	70	83	89	97	98	104	103	102
Public service enterprises.....	23	19	16	15	13	11	14	16	20	26	29	32	33
Conservation and development	63	61	58	52	45	38	45	51	57	57	56	56	55
All other public	13	12	11	10	11	10	13	14	14	17	17	17	14

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

NORTHEAST	NORTH CENTRAL		SOUTH		WEST
1. New England Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island Vermont	3. E. N. Central Illinois Indiana Michigan Ohio Wisconsin	4. W. N. Central Iowa Kansas Minnesota Missouri Nebraska North Dakota South Dakota	5. S. Atlantic Delaware Dist. of Col. Florida Georgia Maryland N. Carolina S. Carolina Virginia W. Virginia	6. E. S. Central Alabama Kentucky Mississippi Tennessee	8. Mountain Arizona Colorado Idaho Montana Nevada New Mexico Utah Wyoming
2. Middle Atlantic New Jersey New York Pennsylvania			7. W. S. Central Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas	9. Pacific California Oregon Washington	
NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950					
NORTHEAST—29.5 percent.	NORTH CENTRAL—29.0 percent.		SOUTH—27.7 percent.		WEST—13.8 percent.

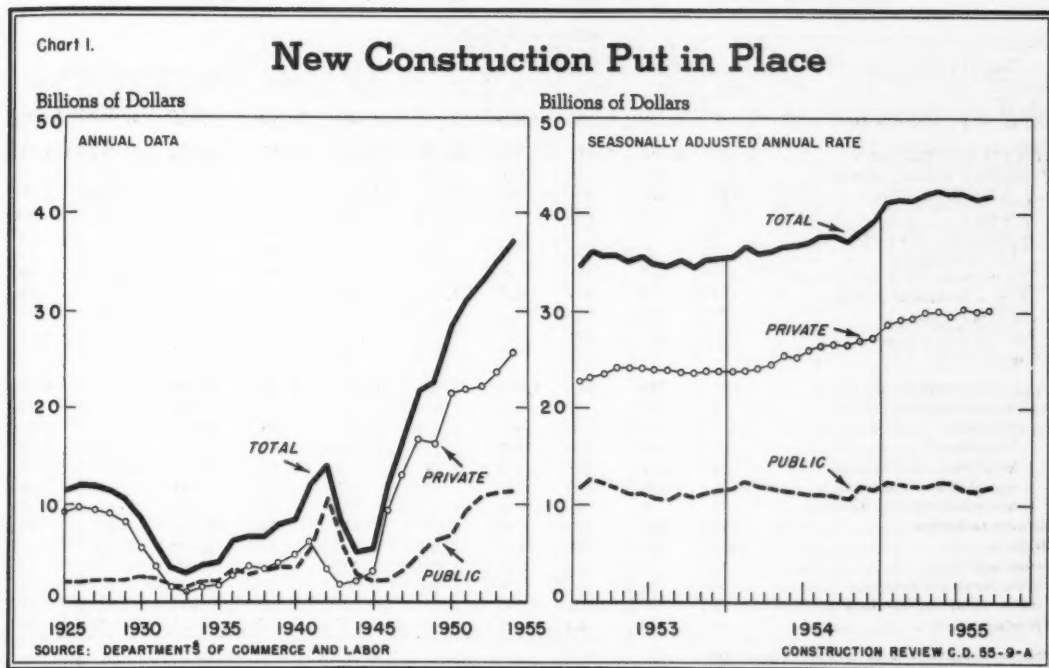


Table 3.--New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	Seasonally adjusted annual rate							Annual total	
	1954	1955						1953	1954
	Sept.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	1953	1954
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	38,388	41,916	42,372	42,072	41,892	41,592	41,964	35,271	37,577
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	26,964	29,976	30,024	29,832	30,168	29,988	30,192	23,877	25,768
Residential building (nonfarm)	14,580	16,392	16,392	16,296	16,464	16,044	16,008	11,930	13,496
Nonresidential building	6,360	7,464	7,512	7,464	7,644	7,908	8,160	5,680	6,250
Industrial	1,908	2,256	2,292	2,364	2,424	2,460	2,472	2,229	2,030
Commercial	2,424	2,952	2,964	2,928	3,012	3,288	3,516	1,791	2,192
Warehouses, office and loft buildings	1,032	1,104	1,152	1,152	1,140	1,152	1,176	739	958
Stores, restaurants, and garages.....	1,392	1,848	1,812	1,776	1,872	2,136	2,340	1,052	1,254
Other nonresidential building	2,028	2,256	2,256	2,172	2,208	2,160	2,172	1,660	2,008
Farm construction	1,524	1,440	1,428	1,404	1,392	1,380	1,368	1,731	1,560
Public utility	4,356	4,512	4,512	4,512	4,512	4,512	4,512	4,416	4,341
All other private	144	168	180	156	156	144	144	120	121
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	11,424	11,940	12,348	12,240	11,724	11,604	11,772	11,394	11,809
Residential building	252	276	264	264	240	228	228	556	336
Nonresidential building	4,464	4,392	4,416	4,536	4,212	4,212	4,308	4,346	4,641
Military facilities	972	1,260	1,380	1,380	1,356	1,296	1,284	1,307	1,030
Highway	3,768	3,828	4,080	3,900	3,828	3,780	3,828	3,160	3,750
Sewer and water.....	972	1,116	1,128	1,080	1,044	1,044	1,092	883	982
Public service enterprises.....	228	216	216	252	264	288	336	200	218
Conservation and development	636	684	708	648	600	576	552	830	704
All other public	132	168	156	180	180	180	144	112	148

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

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Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	(Millions of dollars)									
	1955			1954	Year					
	Aug.	July	June	Aug.	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	3,171	3,156	3,059	3,049	22,177	26,608	26,988	27,662	28,931	30,912
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,156	2,166	2,111	1,988	15,956	19,885	18,677	18,428	19,433	20,934
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,188	1,222	1,192	1,088	8,128	11,634	9,457	9,311	9,840	11,214
Nonresidential building	537	521	503	449	3,124	3,566	4,494	4,211	4,655	5,073
Industrial	164	159	155	132	954	1,004	1,790	1,909	1,807	1,690
Warehouses, office and loft buildings	77	73	71	72	313	396	500	461	640	789
Stores, restaurants, and garages	146	141	132	97	677	828	733	525	857	998
Other nonresidential bldgs.	150	148	145	148	1,180	1,338	1,471	1,316	1,351	1,596
Farm construction	125	123	119	143	1,479	1,583	1,616	1,643	1,484	1,341
Public utility	296	289	286	299	3,151	3,001	3,056	3,194	3,362	3,216
All other private	10	11	11	9	74	101	54	69	92	90
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,015	990	948	1,061	6,221	6,723	8,311	9,234	9,498	9,978
Residential building	17	17	19	22	353	321	512	550	459	281
Nonresidential building	307	305	312	350	1,990	2,237	3,050	3,465	3,531	3,743
Industrial	48	50	59	108	173	212	821	1,384	1,434	1,253
Educational	176	174	172	154	897	1,061	1,337	1,375	1,397	1,696
Hospital and institutional	25	25	26	29	458	467	466	401	297	289
Other nonresidential building ..	58	56	55	59	462	497	426	305	403	505
Military facilities	105	101	97	82	134	171	788	1,195	1,105	872
Highway	441	423	380	462	2,128	2,367	2,349	2,489	2,851	3,573
Sewer and water	72	73	70	69	586	590	655	639	681	724
Public service enterprises	22	20	18	18	190	164	168	148	146	156
Conservation and development	39	39	40	47	750	786	721	694	639	520
All other public	12	12	12	11	90	87	68	54	86	109

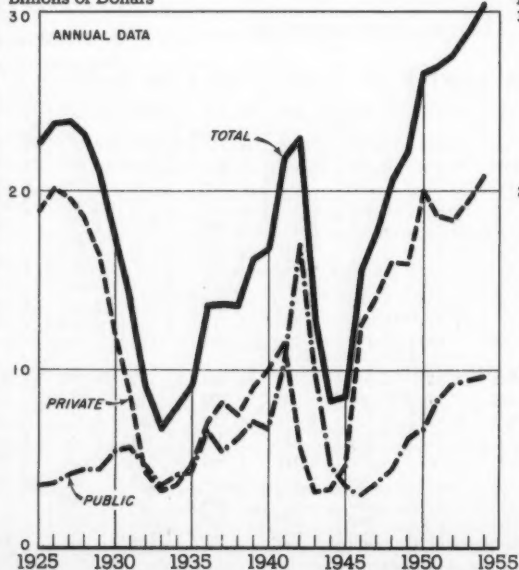
Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Chart 2

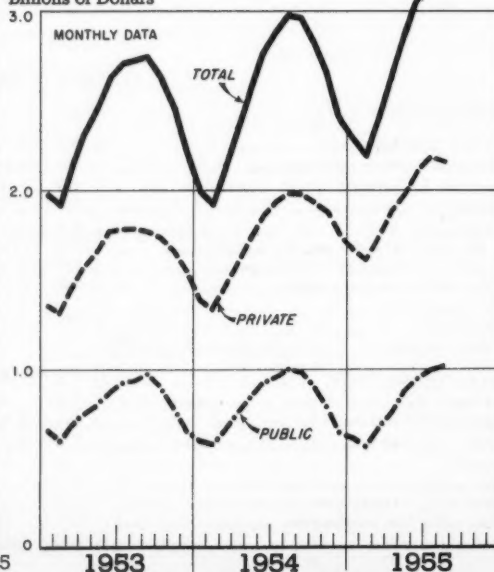
New Construction Put in Place

(In 1947-49 Prices)

Billions of Dollars



Billions of Dollars



SOURCE: DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

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Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction

Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)								Percent change		
	1954	1955					First 9 months		Sept. 1955 from--		First 9 months, 1954-55
	Sept.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	1954	1955	Sept. 1954	Aug. 1955	
TOTAL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION...	1,214	1,059	1,146	1,193	1,224	1,243	8,926	9,013	+ 2	+ 2	+ 1
Federal funds	376	322	339	339	351	359	3,185	2,737	- 5	+ 2	-14
Direct Federal	292	251	260	256	260	264	2,644	2,157	-10	+ 2	-18
Federal grants-in-aid ¹	84	71	79	83	91	95	541	580	+13	+ 4	+ 7
State and local funds	838	737	807	854	873	884	5,741	6,276	+ 5	+ 1	+ 9
FEDERALLY OWNED	292	251	260	256	260	264	2,644	2,157	-10	+ 2	-18
Residential building	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	-100
Nonresidential building	124	78	78	69	67	73	1,310	695	-41	+ 9	-47
Industrial	106	72	72	62	60	61	1,195	640	-42	+ 2	-46
Educational	1	1	1	0	0	1	7	3	0	--	-57
Hospital	2	1	1	2	2	3	29	15	+50	+50	-48
Other nonresidential	15	4	4	5	5	8	79	37	-47	+60	-53
Military facilities	98	110	118	123	128	128	746	949	+31	0	+27
Highway	6	5	6	7	8	7	43	45	+17	-13	+ 5
Conservation and development	63	57	57	56	56	55	533	460	-13	- 2	-14
All other federally owned	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	8	0	0	0
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	922	808	886	937	964	979	6,282	6,856	+ 6	+ 2	+ 9
Residential building	24	22	23	21	21	21	265	196	-13	0	-26
Nonresidential building	286	301	319	324	330	322	2,224	2,644	+13	- 2	+19
Educational	196	210	220	226	230	230	1,568	1,868	+17	0	+19
Hospital	31	31	32	30	30	26	252	250	-16	-13	- 1
Other nonresidential	59	60	67	68	70	66	404	526	+12	- 6	+30
Highway	486	355	404	443	462	488	2,784	2,880	(2)	+ 6	+ 3
Sewer and water	91	97	98	104	103	102	734	823	+12	- 1	+12
All other State and locally owned	35	33	42	45	48	46	275	313	+31	- 4	+14

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities. ² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

WORLD TRADE INFORMATION

Businessmen interested in foreign trade will find a wide variety of information in the World Trade Information Service, a series of reports published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce. These reports provide up-to-date business, economic, and statistical facts about various industries, countries, and world areas, and they are issued as soon as specific studies are completed. Grouped under five major classifications, the reports are available on an annual subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., or from Department of Commerce Field Offices (see inside front cover of Construction Review for addresses). Subscription rates are as follows, with additional cost for foreign mailing shown in parentheses.

WORLD TRADE INFORMATION SERVICE:

- Part 1. Economic Reports, \$6 (\$2.50) Part 3. Statistical Reports, \$6 (\$1.50)
 Part 2. Operations Reports, \$6 (\$2.50) Part 4. Utilities Abroad, \$3 (\$1)
 Part 5. Fairs and Exhibitions, \$6 (\$2)

The first index to World Trade Information Service was issued recently. It lists over 247 reports published thus far on various aspects of foreign trade--classified by country or area and by subject. The index is available from the same sources described above, at 10 cents a copy.

As a special local service to those interested in world trade, the 33 field offices of the Department of Commerce are staffed with foreign trade specialists who keep abreast of developments here and abroad. Thus, knowledge about all phases of world trade--ranging from comprehensive economic and business data to details on export and import regulations--is readily available to businessmen and others in their own cities or localities.

Part II—New Housing

Table 6.—New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

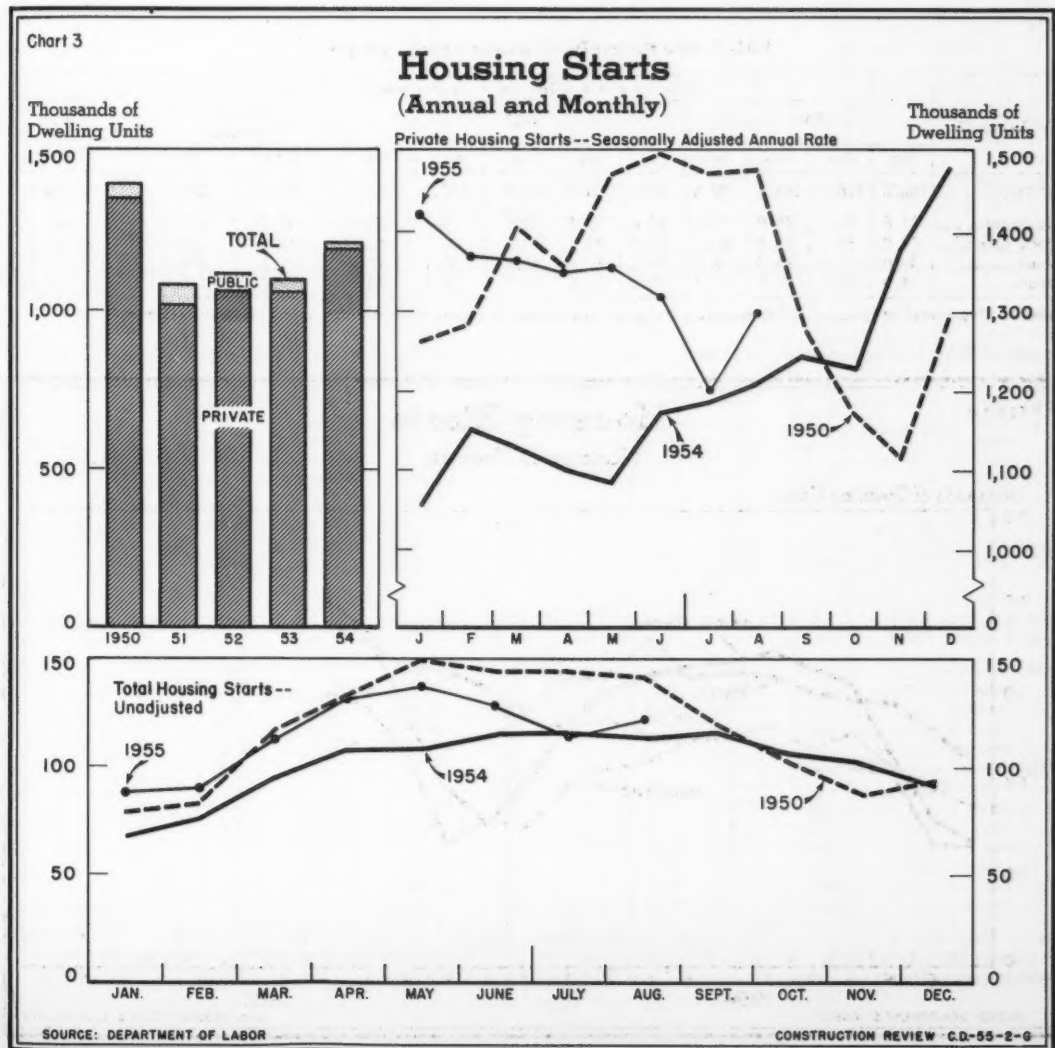
Period	Total	Ownership		Location ¹		Type of structure			
		Private	Public	Metro- politan	Nonmetro- politan	1-family houses	Units in 2-or-more family structures		
							All	2-4 family	5-or-more family
NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS (in thousands)									
Year: 1946.....	670.5	662.5	8.0	(2)	(2)	590.0	80.5	(3)	(3)
1947.....	849.0	845.6	3.4	(2)	(2)	740.2	108.8	(3)	(3)
1948.....	931.6	913.5	18.1	(2)	(2)	766.6	165.0	(3)	(3)
1949.....	1,025.1	988.8	36.3	(2)	(2)	794.3	230.8	(3)	(3)
1950.....	1,396.0	1,352.2	43.8	1,021.6	374.4	1,154.1	241.9	(3)	(3)
1951.....	1,091.3	1,020.1	71.2	776.8	314.5	900.1	191.2	(3)	(3)
1952.....	1,127.0	1,068.5	58.5	794.9	332.1	942.5	184.5	(3)	(3)
1953.....	1,103.8	1,068.3	35.5	803.5	300.3	937.8	166.0	(3)	(3)
1954.....	1,220.4	1,201.7	18.7	896.9	323.5	1,077.9	142.5	51.9	90.6
First 8 months, 1954.....	799.8	784.6	15.2	588.4	211.4	701.4	98.4	33.4	65.0
First 8 months, 1955.....	927.9	916.0	11.9	689.3	238.6	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1954: August.....	114.3	113.0	1.3	82.6	31.7	103.0	11.3	4.4	6.9
September.....	115.7	113.4	2.3	82.7	33.0	103.9	11.8	4.5	7.3
October.....	110.7	110.5	.2	80.4	30.3	100.3	10.4	4.5	5.9
November.....	103.6	103.3	.3	75.7	27.9	92.8	10.8	4.5	6.3
December.....	90.6	89.9	.7	69.7	20.9	79.5	11.1	5.0	6.1
1955: January.....	87.6	87.3	.3	68.1	19.5	78.3	9.3	3.6	5.7
February.....	89.9	87.9	2.0	66.9	23.0	78.9	11.0	3.9	7.1
March.....	113.8	112.8	1.0	86.8	27.0	100.1	13.7	5.0	8.7
April.....	132.0	130.5	1.5	96.8	35.2	119.9	12.1	4.7	7.4
May.....	137.6	135.1	2.5	99.7	37.9	122.2	15.4	5.1	10.3
June.....	129.0	126.5	2.5	96.0	33.0	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
July.....	115.0	114.2	.8	84.4	30.6	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
August.....	123.0	121.7	1.3	90.6	32.4	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Percent change									
First 8 months, 1954-55.....	+16.0	+16.7	-21.7	+17.1	+12.9	--	--	--	--
July-August, 1955.....	+7.0	+6.6	+62.5	+7.3	+5.9	--	--	--	--
August, 1954-55.....	+7.6	+7.7	0	+9.7	+2.2	--	--	--	--
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Year: 1946.....	100	98.8	1.2	--	--	88.0	12.0	--	--
1947.....	100	99.6	.4	--	--	87.2	12.8	--	--
1948.....	100	98.1	1.9	--	--	82.3	17.7	--	--
1949.....	100	96.5	3.5	--	--	77.5	22.5	--	--
1950.....	100	96.9	3.1	73.2	26.8	82.7	17.3	--	--
1951.....	100	93.5	6.5	71.2	28.8	82.5	17.5	--	--
1952.....	100	94.8	5.2	70.5	29.5	83.6	16.4	--	--
1953.....	100	96.8	3.2	72.8	27.2	85.0	15.0	--	--
1954.....	100	98.5	1.5	73.5	26.5	88.3	11.7	4.3	7.4
First 8 months, 1954.....	100	98.1	1.9	73.6	26.4	87.7	12.3	4.2	8.1
First 8 months, 1955.....	100	98.7	1.3	74.3	25.7	--	--	--	--
1954: August.....	100	98.9	1.1	72.3	27.7	90.1	9.9	3.9	6.0
September.....	100	98.0	2.0	71.5	28.5	89.8	10.2	3.9	6.3
October.....	100	99.8	.2	72.6	27.4	90.6	9.4	4.1	5.3
November.....	100	99.7	.3	73.1	26.9	89.6	10.4	4.3	6.1
December.....	100	99.2	.8	76.9	23.1	87.7	12.3	5.5	6.8
1955: January.....	100	99.7	.3	77.7	22.3	89.4	10.6	4.1	6.5
February.....	100	97.8	2.2	74.4	25.6	87.8	12.2	4.3	7.9
March.....	100	99.1	.9	76.3	23.7	88.0	12.0	4.4	7.6
April.....	100	98.9	1.1	73.3	26.7	90.8	9.2	3.6	5.6
May.....	100	98.2	1.8	72.5	27.5	88.8	11.2	3.7	7.5
June.....	100	98.1	1.9	74.4	25.6	--	--	--	--
July.....	100	99.3	.7	73.4	26.6	--	--	--	--
August.....	100	98.9	1.1	73.7	26.3	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request. ² Annual data not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953. ³ Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request. ⁴ Not yet available.

Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

Year	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1946.....	598	661	752	693	677	655	645	663	634	658	643	646
1947.....	619	667	679	694	735	803	854	923	1,029	1,089	1,064	962
1948.....	851	762	925	1,015	1,000	1,008	986	912	886	838	827	812
1949.....	751	745	792	879	920	950	976	1,035	1,108	1,187	1,259	1,266
1950.....	1,262	1,283	1,406	1,358	1,469	1,496	1,471	1,476	1,278	1,174	1,115	1,292
1951.....	1,333	1,192	1,093	955	984	942	914	946	1,049	1,036	973	978
1952.....	996	1,158	1,104	1,003	1,018	1,011	1,064	1,044	1,092	1,156	1,110	1,111
1953.....	1,106	1,150	1,165	1,111	1,065	1,064	1,015	988	1,014	1,050	1,077	1,060
1954.....	1,056	1,152	1,130	1,102	1,083	1,175	1,188	1,211	1,248	1,287	1,393	1,478
1955.....	1,416	1,370	1,367	1,350	1,362	1,320	1,202	1,304				

Source: Department of Labor.



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Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST													
1946.....	\$5,250	\$5,400	\$5,850	\$5,575	\$5,475	\$5,425	\$5,375	\$5,450	\$5,450	\$5,625	\$5,675	\$5,575	\$5,525
1947.....	5,700	5,825	6,150	6,275	6,250	6,450	6,725	6,950	7,025	7,275	7,525	7,650	6,750
1948.....	7,250	7,450	7,550	7,775	7,950	8,050	8,050	8,100	7,900	7,825	7,900	7,900	7,850
1949.....	7,650	7,525	7,450	7,500	7,650	7,675	7,525	7,650	7,725	7,675	7,675	7,625	7,625
1950.....	7,625	7,850	8,225	8,450	8,450	8,750	8,875	9,125	8,900	9,200	9,075	9,200	8,675
1951.....	9,100	9,250	9,175	9,325	9,475	9,475	9,400	9,300	9,450	9,225	9,250	9,125	9,300
1952.....	9,050	9,275	9,350	9,550	9,575	9,675	9,500	9,425	9,600	9,525	9,550	9,525	9,475
1953.....	9,400	9,600	9,800	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,125	10,175	10,200	10,175	9,975	10,000	9,950
1954.....	9,750	9,800	10,075	10,600	10,850	10,750	10,850	10,750	10,675	10,800	10,850	11,075	10,625
1955.....	10,575	11,125	11,250	11,250	11,400	(1)	(1)	(1)					
Percent change, 1954 to 1955													
	+8.5	+13.5	+11.7	+6.1	+5.1	--	--	--					

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Not yet available.Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region ¹

Region	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)											Percent change, first 5 months 1954-55
	1954				1955					First 5 months		
	May	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	1954	1955	
TOTAL	108.5	110.7	103.6	90.6	87.6	89.9	113.8	132.0	137.6	453.0	560.9	+23.8
Northeast	21.6	21.6	19.0	15.3	16.0	13.5	23.6	28.6	30.3	90.7	112.0	+23.5
North Central	32.9	30.1	26.8	20.0	15.6	19.7	28.1	37.3	40.0	116.7	140.7	+20.6
South	30.0	31.8	31.5	28.0	30.6	32.4	32.9	35.7	37.4	136.9	169.0	+23.4
West	24.0	27.2	26.3	27.3	25.4	24.3	29.2	30.4	29.9	108.7	139.2	+28.1

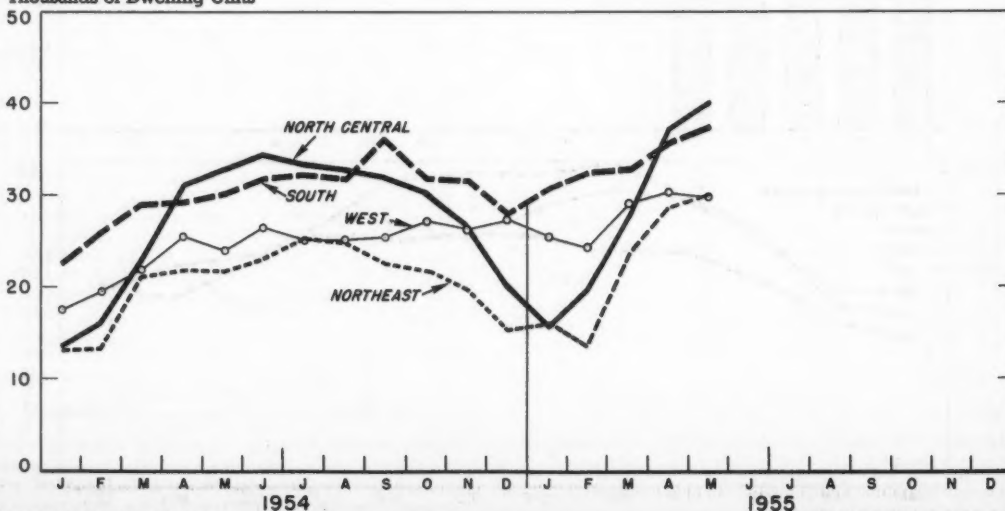
Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

Chart 4

Housing Starts
(Regional Trends)

Thousands of Dwelling Units



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs

Period	FHA-assisted units		VA-assisted units		Nonfarm dwelling units started		
	In applications	Started	In appraisal requests	Started	U. S. total	FHA-assisted	VA-assisted
	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS				PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
Year: 1950.....	397,696	486,681	(1)	200,000	100	36	15
1951.....	192,759	263,523	164,365	148,634	100	26	15
1952.....	267,915	279,901	226,299	141,274	100	26	13
1953.....	253,726	251,969	251,437	156,616	100	24	15
1954.....	338,581	276,307	535,412	307,038	100	23	26
First 8 mos., 1954...	223,246	177,873	346,595	174,435	100	23	23
First 8 mos., 1955...	234,184	199,693	477,281	273,969	100	22	30
1954: August.....	32,166	26,999	55,350	33,259	100	24	29
September.....	34,831	25,882	51,265	33,938	100	23	30
October.....	29,325	24,665	45,572	33,501	100	22	30
November.....	26,851	26,344	47,729	36,017	100	26	35
December.....	24,328	21,543	44,251	29,147	100	24	33
1955: January.....	25,647	20,021	46,204	26,069	100	23	30
February.....	28,349	17,204	64,192	28,048	100	19	32
March.....	35,597	23,785	71,939	29,850	100	21	26
April.....	33,101	25,773	65,856	34,486	100	23	27
May.....	30,102	28,019	69,280	37,847	100	22	29
June.....	30,755	32,059	52,424	39,542	100	25	31
July.....	24,266	25,972	51,412	37,366	100	22	33
August.....	26,367	26,860	55,974	40,761	100	22	33
	Percent change						
First 8 mos., 1954-55..	+ 5	+12	+38	+57			

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (FHFA) and the Veterans Administration.
¹ Not available.

Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of \$20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender

Period	Total number (in thousands)	Average amount (dollars)	Total amount (in millions of dollars) recorded by--						
			All lenders	Savings and loan associations	Insurance companies	Commercial banks	Mutual savings banks	Individuals	All other lenders
Year: 1950.....	3,032	5,535	16,179	5,060	1,618	3,365	1,064	2,299	2,774
1951.....	2,878	5,701	16,405	5,295	1,615	3,370	1,013	2,539	2,572
1952.....	3,028	5,950	18,018	6,452	1,420	3,600	1,137	2,758	2,651
1953.....	3,164	6,241	19,747	7,365	1,480	3,680	1,327	2,841	3,055
1954.....	3,458	6,644	22,974	8,312	1,768	4,239	1,501	2,882	4,272
First 7 mos., 1954..	1,895	6,434	12,195	4,469	891	2,275	777	1,632	2,151
First 7 mos., 1955..	2,272	7,207	16,375	6,146	1,153	3,128	1,006	1,922	3,020
1954: July.....	306	6,624	2,027	734	155	371	141	251	374
August.....	312	6,684	2,086	770	166	369	138	252	391
September.....	313	6,789	2,122	766	164	383	141	250	417
October.....	314	6,874	2,156	765	178	393	140	248	431
November.....	307	7,004	2,148	757	177	399	147	246	420
December.....	318	7,131	2,267	784	191	420	158	252	462
1955: January.....	284	7,120	2,024	688	165	379	128	246	419
February.....	277	7,077	1,958	702	151	365	116	228	396
March.....	343	7,153	2,455	928	174	458	134	303	459
April.....	328	7,182	2,357	900	165	456	136	276	424
May.....	344	7,215	2,483	950	163	482	153	286	449
June.....	360	7,312	2,636	1,024	174	516	171	301	449
July.....	335	7,348	2,463	953	161	472	168	283	425
	Percent change								
First 7 mos., 1954-55	+20	+12	+34	+38	+29	+38	+29	+18	+40

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HLBB).

Part III--Building Permits

Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building

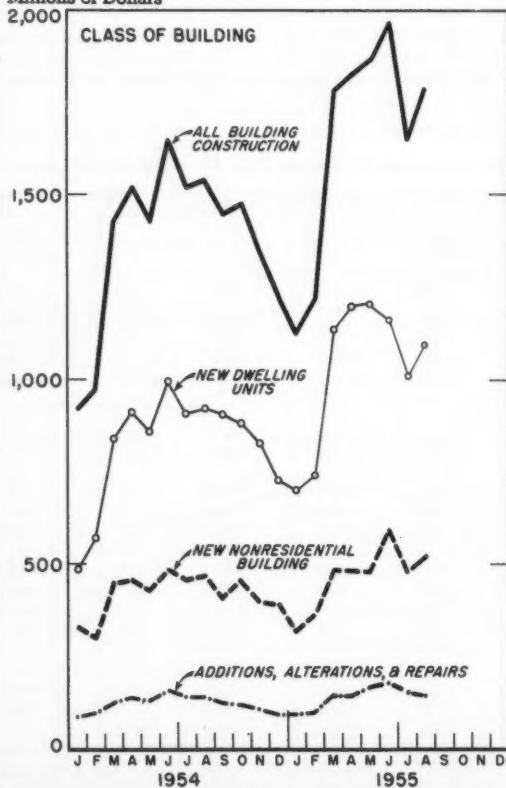
Type of building	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, August 1954-55
	1955			1954	First 8 months		
	Aug.	July	June	Aug.	1955	1954	
All building construction ¹	1,787.1	1,652.7	1,964.9	1,539.3	13,257.6	10,971.3	+16
Private	1,624.8	1,534.2	1,765.2	1,387.8	12,135.8	9,802.5	+17
Public	162.3	118.5	199.7	151.5	1,121.8	1,168.8	+7
New dwelling units ²	1,098.2	1,016.1	1,168.1	920.6	8,277.7	6,498.7	+19
Number of new dwelling units	(107,457)	(98,176)	(115,072)	(99,845)	(831,909)	(717,456)	(+8)
New nonresidential building	523.9	478.1	595.4	470.1	3,729.4	3,357.9	+11
Commercial buildings	196.8	178.5	197.2	143.3	1,273.7	1,038.0	+37
Stores and other mercantile buildings	113.8	90.4	100.2	76.7	694.8	555.8	+48
All other commercial buildings	83.0	88.1	97.0	66.6	578.9	482.2	+25
Community buildings.....	171.4	153.3	213.2	166.1	1,313.4	1,293.9	+3
Industrial buildings.....	67.1	66.7	84.7	53.1	518.8	438.4	+26
All other nonresidential buildings	88.6	79.6	100.3	107.7	623.5	587.6	-18
Additions, alterations, and repairs	147.3	150.5	180.3	140.5	1,135.9	1,019.9	+5

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. ² Housekeeping only.

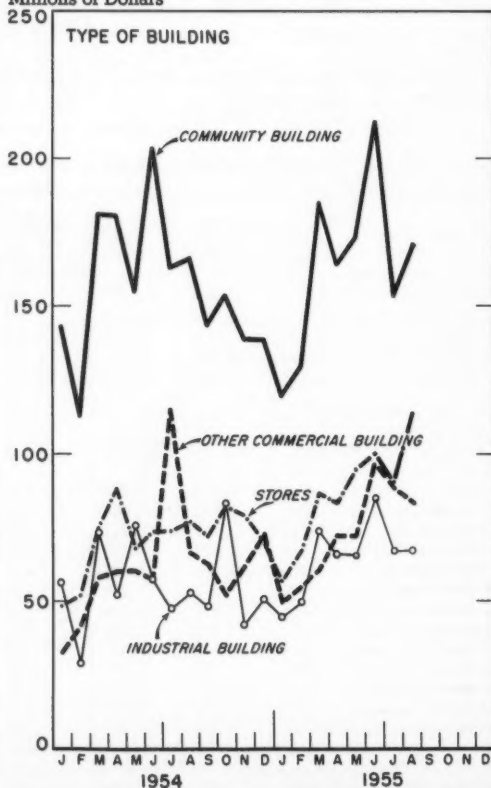
Chart 5

Building Permit Activity

Millions of Dollars



Millions of Dollars



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building, and Region ¹

Class of construction and type of building	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 7 months 1954-55
	1954	1955			First 7 months		
	July	May	June	July	1954	1955	
UNITED STATES							
All building construction ²	1,516.3	1,867.1	1,964.9	1,652.7	9,432.0	11,470.5	+22
New dwelling units ³	909.5	1,209.1	1,168.1	1,016.1	5,578.1	7,179.5	+29
New nonresidential building	450.8	477.8	595.4	478.1	2,887.8	3,205.5	+11
Commercial buildings	188.8	168.1	197.2	178.5	894.7	1,076.9	+20
Amusement buildings	7.2	12.3	10.2	9.8	59.8	67.3	+13
Commercial garages	6.6	10.9	5.7	5.8	34.9	37.2	+7
Gasoline and service stations	11.1	13.4	13.4	11.3	66.4	81.0	+22
Office buildings	90.2	36.0	67.7	61.2	254.6	310.4	+22
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	73.8	95.5	100.2	90.4	479.1	581.0	+21
Community buildings	162.4	174.0	213.2	153.3	1,127.8	1,142.0	+1
Educational buildings	108.2	115.3	113.4	97.4	701.6	724.7	+3
Institutional buildings	21.0	23.9	49.2	17.7	221.0	181.1	-18
Religious buildings	33.2	34.8	50.6	38.2	205.2	236.2	+15
Garages, private residential	17.6	20.4	20.8	18.9	91.4	104.2	+14
Industrial buildings	41.3	65.7	84.7	66.7	385.3	451.7	+17
Public buildings	15.8	18.6	37.3	24.1	147.6	164.5	+11
Public utilities buildings	11.6	15.0	22.5	20.3	120.9	156.1	+29
All other nonresidential buildings	13.3	15.9	19.7	16.2	120.1	110.0	-8
Additions, alterations, and repairs	140.6	170.3	180.3	150.5	879.4	988.6	+12
Northeast							
All building construction ²	369.3	412.5	457.8	376.5	2,156.9	2,513.6	+17
New dwelling units ³	204.3	271.4	276.0	236.9	1,268.3	1,562.0	+23
New nonresidential building	128.5	102.4	132.9	106.7	666.9	715.9	+7
Commercial buildings	70.7	31.5	49.0	39.2	213.2	234.2	+10
Amusement buildings	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.6	12.4	11.1	-10
Commercial garages	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.4	10.3	10.9	+6
Gasoline and service stations	1.8	2.5	2.5	1.5	11.3	13.6	+20
Office buildings	52.7	12.4	19.0	19.4	82.4	94.6	+15
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	13.3	13.4	24.2	15.4	96.8	104.1	+8
Community buildings	39.1	39.1	39.1	38.6	261.4	273.9	+5
Educational buildings	23.1	23.3	25.4	27.8	169.3	187.5	+11
Institutional buildings	7.1	8.5	2.3	1.7	49.1	33.6	-32
Religious buildings	8.9	7.2	11.4	9.0	43.1	52.7	+22
Garages, private residential	4.3	4.4	4.6	3.9	21.1	22.3	+6
Industrial buildings	7.8	17.1	22.6	18.1	98.1	112.0	+14
Public buildings	1.3	1.9	2.7	1.9	34.2	12.5	-63
Public utilities buildings	3.8	5.3	8.8	1.8	16.9	32.3	+91
All other nonresidential buildings	1.6	3.1	6.2	3.1	21.9	28.6	+31
Additions, alterations, and repairs	34.8	37.0	40.9	31.7	208.7	216.4	+4
North Central							
All building construction ²	468.7	589.0	626.9	509.4	2,777.7	3,370.0	+21
New dwelling units ³	287.2	397.5	380.6	315.4	1,651.7	2,116.9	+28
New nonresidential building	135.2	141.3	192.6	145.8	865.1	969.5	+12
Commercial buildings	53.8	44.5	54.2	47.3	252.0	285.4	+13
Amusement buildings	2.4	4.9	4.3	3.4	20.0	23.4	+17
Commercial garages	2.8	4.0	1.3	2.4	13.5	9.8	-27
Gasoline and service stations	3.4	4.3	4.7	3.6	20.8	25.4	+25
Office buildings	22.4	8.0	17.9	12.2	60.4	66.9	+11
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	22.7	23.3	26.1	25.6	137.7	159.8	+16
Community buildings	43.9	52.1	79.8	46.5	313.2	354.5	+13
Educational buildings	29.7	33.7	35.9	31.3	193.8	218.2	+13
Institutional buildings	3.4	4.4	30.4	3.5	59.1	63.1	+7
Religious buildings	10.9	14.0	13.6	11.7	60.3	73.2	+21
Garages, private residential	9.4	11.2	11.3	10.4	43.7	52.7	+21
Industrial buildings	16.0	21.2	33.9	18.9	123.9	156.4	+26
Public buildings	5.1	5.1	3.1	9.6	37.5	49.9	+33
Public utilities buildings	4.6	4.8	7.2	11.5	61.6	56.9	-8
All other nonresidential buildings	2.5	2.3	3.0	1.7	33.2	13.7	-59
Additions, alterations, and repairs	41.6	48.3	51.2	46.0	238.6	270.1	+13

See footnotes at end of table.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building, and Region ¹--Continued

Class of construction and type of building	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 7 months 1954-55
	1954	1955			First 7 months		
	July	May	June	July	1954	1955	
	South						
All building construction ²	346.4	434.4	463.7	381.5	2,347.7	2,874.5	+22
New dwelling units ³	203.9	263.5	256.7	214.1	1,299.2	1,705.0	+31
New nonresidential building	98.5	124.4	151.3	124.0	784.2	858.4	+9
Commercial buildings	34.3	54.8	57.0	56.7	258.4	326.7	+26
Amusement buildings	1.7	4.3	2.5	2.7	16.9	22.3	+32
Commercial garages	1.7	4.9	2.3	.9	6.5	12.3	+89
Gasoline and service stations.....	3.5	4.1	3.7	4.1	21.3	26.1	+23
Office buildings.....	6.8	6.6	20.8	21.6	61.8	89.4	+45
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	20.5	34.9	27.7	27.4	151.8	176.7	+16
Community buildings.....	42.4	47.6	58.1	36.3	315.5	307.6	-3
Educational buildings.....	25.7	31.0	26.6	19.2	169.4	168.1	-1
Institutional buildings	7.4	7.4	10.2	5.3	76.7	59.4	-23
Religious buildings	9.3	9.2	21.3	11.7	69.5	80.1	+15
Garages, private residential	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.6	10.5	11.2	+7
Industrial buildings.....	7.7	7.8	9.9	14.9	98.4	77.0	-22
Public buildings	6.7	4.9	16.7	5.7	47.2	57.4	+22
Public utilities buildings.....	1.4	3.3	3.2	3.5	25.2	47.7	+89
All other nonresidential buildings	4.5	4.3	4.5	5.3	29.0	30.8	+6
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	37.1	43.7	49.3	40.7	238.2	274.1	+15
	West						
All building construction ²	332.0	431.3	416.5	385.4	2,149.7	2,712.5	+26
New dwelling units ³	214.0	276.7	254.9	249.7	1,358.9	1,795.6	+32
New nonresidential building.....	88.6	109.7	118.6	101.6	571.5	661.7	+16
Commercial buildings	30.1	37.3	37.0	35.3	171.2	230.6	+35
Amusement buildings	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.1	10.6	10.6	0
Commercial garages	1.0	.4	.9	1.0	4.5	4.1	-9
Gasoline and service stations.....	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.1	13.4	16.0	+19
Office buildings.....	8.3	9.0	9.9	8.0	50.0	59.5	+19
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	17.3	23.9	22.3	22.0	92.7	140.4	+51
Community buildings.....	37.0	35.3	36.2	32.0	237.6	206.1	-13
Educational buildings.....	29.6	27.2	25.5	19.1	169.2	151.0	-11
Institutional buildings	3.2	3.7	6.3	7.1	36.1	24.9	-31
Religious buildings	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.8	32.3	30.2	-7
Garages, private residential	2.4	3.0	3.0	2.9	16.1	17.8	+11
Industrial buildings.....	9.8	19.6	18.3	14.8	64.9	106.3	+64
Public buildings	2.7	6.7	14.9	6.9	28.6	44.7	+56
Public utilities buildings	1.8	1.6	3.2	3.5	17.2	19.2	+12
All other nonresidential buildings.....	4.7	6.2	6.0	6.1	35.9	36.8	+3
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	27.2	41.3	38.9	32.1	193.8	228.1	+18

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately.

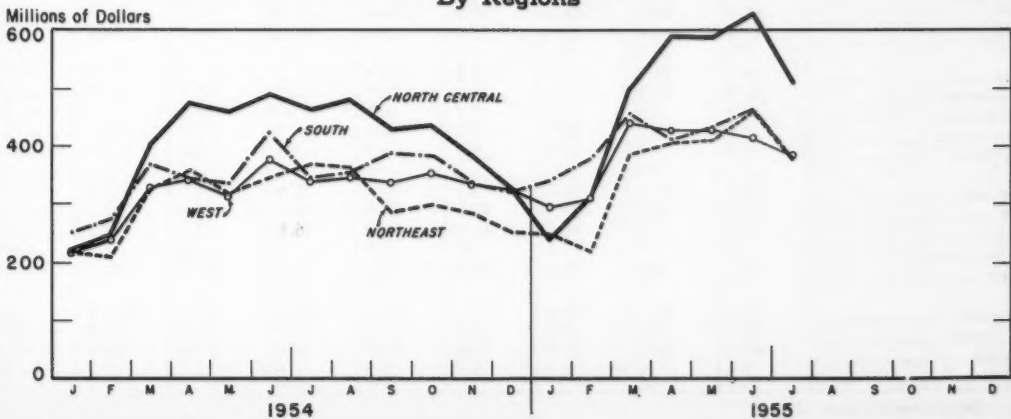
² Includes housekeeping only.

Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region ¹

Ownership and type of structure	Valuation (in millions of dollars)					Number of dwelling units				
	1954		1955		First 7 months	1954		1955		First 7 months
	July	June	July	June	1954	July	June	July	June	1954
	July	June	July	June	1954	July	June	July	June	1954
UNITED STATES										
All new dwelling units..	909.5	1,168.1	1,016.1	5,578.1	7,179.5	98,199	115,072	98,176	617,611	724,452
Privately owned	891.9	1,150.0	1,007.2	5,462.3	7,089.0	96,214	113,014	97,378	604,639	714,675
1-family	824.0	1,082.6	953.9	4,975.4	6,621.4	85,090	102,212	89,412	525,000	639,871
2-4 family	26.0	28.2	23.3	175.9	187.4	4,238	4,288	3,535	29,693	29,906
5-or-more family	41.9	39.2	30.1	311.0	280.3	6,886	6,514	4,431	49,946	44,898
Publicly owned	17.6	18.1	8.9	115.9	90.4	1,985	2,058	798	12,972	9,777
Northeast										
All new dwelling units..	204.3	276.0	236.9	1,268.3	1,562.0	20,709	27,047	22,387	132,594	152,825
Privately owned	192.0	261.3	230.5	1,221.6	1,511.4	19,280	25,293	21,898	127,607	147,315
1-family	173.2	238.0	213.8	1,052.5	1,359.6	16,873	22,055	19,757	105,033	127,368
2-4 family	6.2	5.9	4.1	34.9	37.9	950	876	564	5,208	5,454
5-or-more family	12.6	17.4	12.5	134.2	113.7	1,457	2,362	1,577	17,366	14,493
Publicly owned	12.2	14.7	6.4	46.8	50.6	1,429	1,754	489	4,987	5,510
North Central										
All new dwelling units..	287.2	380.6	315.4	1,651.7	2,116.9	27,317	32,725	26,777	156,775	182,720
Privately owned	281.9	380.6	314.0	1,616.5	2,101.0	26,761	32,725	26,627	152,904	181,051
1-family	267.4	368.3	305.1	1,529.6	2,014.2	24,907	31,316	25,591	141,979	170,578
2-4 family	6.9	9.8	7.1	43.2	52.7	818	1,033	779	5,263	5,947
5-or-more family	7.6	2.4	2.0	43.7	34.2	1,036	376	257	5,662	4,526
Publicly owned	5.4	0	1.3	35.2	15.8	556	0	150	3,871	1,669
South										
All new dwelling units..	203.9	256.7	214.1	1,299.2	1,705.0	25,856	28,712	24,034	168,998	198,540
Privately owned	203.9	253.3	213.1	1,279.0	1,693.7	25,856	28,408	23,886	166,536	197,264
1-family	189.0	241.6	203.8	1,192.6	1,609.1	22,515	25,860	22,014	147,107	178,921
2-4 family	5.2	4.6	4.2	36.9	39.0	1,114	1,025	926	8,081	8,462
5-or-more family	9.8	7.0	5.1	49.4	45.6	2,227	1,523	946	11,348	9,881
Publicly owned	0	3.4	1.0	20.2	11.3	0	304	148	2,462	1,276
West										
All new dwelling units..	214.0	254.9	249.7	1,358.9	1,795.6	24,317	26,588	24,978	159,244	190,367
Privately owned	214.0	254.9	249.5	1,345.3	1,782.9	24,317	26,588	24,967	157,592	189,045
1-family	194.4	234.7	231.2	1,200.6	1,638.5	20,795	22,981	22,050	130,881	163,004
2-4 family	7.6	7.8	7.9	60.9	57.8	1,356	1,354	1,266	11,141	10,043
5-or-more family	12.0	12.4	10.5	83.7	86.8	2,166	2,253	1,651	15,570	15,998
Publicly owned	0	0	.1	13.7	12.6	0	0	11	1,652	1,322

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

Chart 6.

Building Permit Activity
By Regions

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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Table 15.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

State	(Millions of dollars)								
	1954	1955					First 6 months		Percent change, 1st 6 mos. 1954-55
	June	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	1,655.3	1,223.1	1,788.6	1,841.1	1,867.1	1,964.9	7,915.7	9,817.8	+24
Metropolitan areas	1,309.6	993.7	1,434.6	1,464.8	1,481.3	1,578.5	6,311.9	7,885.0	+25
Nonmetropolitan areas	345.7	229.4	354.0	376.3	385.8	386.4	1,603.8	1,932.8	+21
Alabama	12.5	14.3	15.4	14.3	15.1	16.2	63.0	85.2	+35
Arizona	12.8	15.4	17.2	15.1	14.2	13.3	70.1	87.3	+25
Arkansas	7.0	4.2	5.2	6.5	4.0	4.4	46.3	28.4	-39
California	257.6	209.9	308.4	304.6	289.7	283.8	1,228.8	1,602.7	+30
Colorado	24.1	18.0	25.9	26.1	25.8	24.1	104.8	143.0	+36
Connecticut	35.4	17.3	37.8	39.7	38.3	36.8	144.4	186.9	+29
Delaware	6.9	2.3	6.9	7.1	5.3	6.2	25.7	30.7	+19
District of Columbia	9.7	5.0	10.0	2.7	5.4	15.0	31.1	40.5	+30
Florida	59.4	61.2	71.3	60.9	59.5	69.5	312.2	379.7	+22
Georgia	49.6	23.7	23.6	19.7	22.6	23.7	147.9	138.0	-7
Idaho	4.1	1.7	3.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	14.3	17.7	+24
Illinois	92.0	63.0	118.6	131.8	146.5	127.7	472.0	637.3	+35
Indiana	32.5	19.8	39.7	31.4	40.4	38.9	169.6	188.7	+11
Iowa	16.1	5.9	22.0	19.4	18.9	23.2	67.0	94.7	+41
Kansas	17.1	14.3	12.1	17.9	14.7	34.1	80.1	108.6	+36
Kentucky	19.3	8.4	13.4	15.7	17.0	17.7	104.6	82.8	-21
Louisiana	20.7	34.6	24.5	25.7	25.7	28.6	103.4	166.2	+61
Maine	3.5	1.7	2.6	2.9	2.4	2.7	12.5	12.7	+2
Maryland	42.0	42.3	40.9	48.4	52.3	62.5	189.4	281.7	+49
Massachusetts	35.9	24.3	45.2	42.8	45.3	47.1	190.4	225.1	+18
Michigan	100.7	62.2	92.2	115.9	111.3	117.5	482.2	553.9	+15
Minnesota	29.0	16.1	32.4	51.7	44.3	50.3	165.0	207.6	+26
Mississippi	6.3	4.7	5.4	3.6	4.7	6.3	29.0	27.9	-4
Missouri	42.1	28.1	30.9	33.0	23.4	34.9	163.6	169.2	+3
Montana	5.1	.8	2.9	4.4	6.3	3.1	20.7	18.7	-10
Nebraska	9.3	2.7	9.8	19.0	11.5	10.6	36.5	56.9	+56
Nevada	13.3	7.5	7.2	5.3	8.3	7.7	44.1	42.2	-4
New Hampshire	2.9	.8	4.2	5.0	3.6	3.4	11.6	17.9	+54
New Jersey	65.7	44.3	78.8	83.1	79.6	82.3	348.3	417.0	+20
New Mexico	7.0	5.8	8.4	10.3	8.6	9.1	38.7	49.0	+27
New York	120.6	81.0	126.9	148.6	154.8	172.3	669.6	783.7	+17
North Carolina	16.1	19.7	26.0	18.6	21.2	18.8	94.5	120.0	+27
North Dakota	3.6	.3	1.2	5.8	4.8	6.1	12.3	18.6	+51
Ohio	95.0	64.2	101.0	116.0	121.6	132.6	452.7	586.4	+30
Oklahoma	13.2	11.9	17.4	20.1	12.1	14.2	68.3	86.1	+26
Oregon	18.3	13.1	13.4	14.2	18.9	15.9	71.4	83.8	+17
Pennsylvania	80.1	49.3	85.6	77.1	82.7	107.5	381.7	465.3	+22
Rhode Island	5.6	1.9	4.3	5.2	4.5	5.3	26.3	24.5	-7
South Carolina	5.7	6.0	18.7	6.7	8.2	6.4	33.1	52.2	+58
South Dakota	3.0	1.0	2.6	5.2	4.2	3.5	13.0	17.6	+35
Tennessee	32.1	14.3	19.0	21.7	20.3	21.9	104.5	116.1	+11
Texas	82.0	90.0	107.9	91.6	97.9	89.8	426.8	561.0	+31
Utah	10.8	4.2	14.6	11.5	12.9	16.8	42.3	62.9	+49
Vermont .....	.3	.2	.8	.9	1.3	.6	2.8	4.0	+43
Virginia	35.8	33.7	49.1	45.3	51.2	54.9	192.6	260.9	+35
Washington	32.7	33.3	38.4	33.4	40.3	36.9	172.5	210.4	+22
West Virginia	8.2	2.7	5.4	5.8	12.1	7.5	28.9	35.5	+23
Wisconsin	50.4	35.2	33.1	43.8	47.3	47.5	195.0	221.1	+13
Wyoming	2.1	.9	1.5	1.6	2.2	1.8	10.0	9.4	-6

Source: Department of Labor.

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Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

State	(Housekeeping units only)								Percent change, 1st 6 mos. 1954-55
	1954	1955					First 6 months		
	June	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	108,179	78,864	115,578	119,306	120,595	115,072	519,412	626,276	+21
Metropolitan areas	86,387	62,580	92,632	94,703	95,780	91,775	417,094	499,713	+20
Nonmetropolitan areas	21,792	16,284	22,946	24,603	24,815	23,297	102,318	126,563	+24
Alabama	1,127	1,265	1,348	1,182	1,292	1,176	5,893	7,133	+21
Arizona	861	1,321	1,453	1,409	1,605	1,095	5,319	8,044	+51
Arkansas	422	407	513	547	337	301	2,066	2,444	+18
California	19,469	15,881	23,283	22,941	20,092	18,373	96,490	117,306	+22
Colorado	1,706	1,498	2,164	1,867	1,705	1,727	7,981	11,172	+40
Connecticut	2,272	886	2,005	1,747	2,027	2,091	8,379	9,648	+15
Delaware	635	152	426	624	344	528	1,553	2,196	+41
District of Columbia	762	225	966	200	287	287	1,876	2,039	+9
Florida	4,022	4,510	5,167	4,478	4,266	4,739	23,168	28,218	+22
Georgia	2,738	1,751	2,096	1,750	2,038	1,904	10,538	11,073	+5
Idaho	189	64	218	225	261	181	744	999	+34
Illinois	5,547	3,220	6,838	7,425	8,627	6,836	26,123	35,367	+35
Indiana	2,370	1,074	2,040	2,043	2,333	2,338	10,492	10,880	+4
Iowa	1,037	359	914	1,122	1,105	1,337	3,649	5,164	+42
Kansas	1,033	837	1,097	1,090	1,119	1,100	5,260	6,055	+15
Kentucky	1,510	607	1,049	1,273	1,474	1,182	5,822	6,247	+7
Louisiana	1,215	1,381	1,650	1,087	1,378	1,446	6,388	8,075	+26
Maine	249	24	76	207	169	191	583	703	+21
Maryland	2,778	3,824	2,800	3,087	2,623	2,827	15,077	17,708	+17
Massachusetts	2,139	1,448	2,488	2,630	2,650	2,816	10,788	13,495	+25
Michigan	6,337	3,138	5,154	6,794	6,768	6,816	28,640	31,909	+11
Minnesota	1,894	795	1,534	2,416	2,226	2,156	7,710	9,740	+26
Mississippi	475	376	336	327	331	379	2,008	1,999	(1)
Missouri	2,252	1,984	1,407	1,655	1,263	1,844	9,321	9,200	-1
Montana	201	31	118	287	311	204	795	1,059	+33
Nebraska	554	205	682	769	769	610	2,329	3,316	+42
Nevada	840	401	239	169	595	470	2,882	2,145	-26
New Hampshire	204	56	161	312	276	225	841	1,103	+31
New Jersey	4,626	2,746	4,519	5,901	5,717	5,141	25,117	27,764	+11
New Mexico	682	580	543	512	757	617	3,351	3,644	+9
New York	8,210	4,260	9,187	9,894	10,865	10,952	45,762	50,945	+11
North Carolina	1,159	1,320	1,487	1,155	1,373	1,163	6,334	7,517	+19
North Dakota	213	1	64	293	277	175	675	820	+21
Ohio	5,667	3,458	5,080	6,321	6,912	6,946	24,795	31,286	+26
Oklahoma	1,055	921	1,298	1,114	845	894	5,010	5,942	+19
Oregon	884	529	684	714	927	699	3,929	4,093	+4
Pennsylvania	4,610	3,012	4,757	4,733	4,722	5,212	18,434	24,904	+35
Rhode Island	312	151	324	321	259	385	1,848	1,716	-7
South Carolina	436	495	519	475	494	467	2,316	2,961	+28
South Dakota	267	63	172	338	254	322	992	1,217	+23
Tennessee	1,503	1,282	1,481	1,628	1,875	1,611	7,284	9,951	+37
Texas	5,712	6,581	7,822	6,813	7,017	6,160	31,423	40,836	+30
Utah	737	219	964	866	680	1,041	2,929	3,988	+36
Vermont	25	6	25	33	47	34	132	160	+21
Virginia	2,697	2,155	3,696	3,468	3,989	3,325	14,969	18,477	+23
Washington	1,866	2,246	2,315	2,123	2,149	2,082	9,803	12,305	+26
West Virginia	315	150	349	357	358	323	1,417	1,690	+19
Wisconsin	2,186	911	1,979	2,493	2,655	2,245	9,472	10,989	+16
Wyoming	179	58	91	91	152	99	705	634	-10

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

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Table 17.—Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

Metropolitan area	(Millions of dollars)						First 6 months		Percent change, 1st 6 mos. 1954-55
	1954	1955					1954	1955	
	June	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	40.2	12.8	15.6	11.8	14.5	15.9	90.5	88.5	- 2
Baltimore, Md.	19.7	28.6	22.3	23.9	31.4	27.1	104.2	151.4	+45
Birmingham, Ala.	4.6	6.5	5.9	5.5	7.1	6.8	22.4	36.5	+63
Boston, Mass.	20.3	15.0	21.7	25.2	24.2	28.5	106.5	126.4	+19
Buffalo, N. Y.	18.6	7.6	14.8	16.4	15.0	19.0	75.5	80.0	+ 6
Chicago, Ill.	81.6	54.3	101.6	114.4	134.2	115.2	416.5	564.8	+36
Cleveland, Ohio	30.4	17.0	33.2	34.7	33.3	36.4	127.6	170.7	+34
Columbus, Ohio	12.3	9.4	10.7	10.8	16.5	16.1	51.5	69.8	+36
Denver, Colo.	14.9	11.1	15.9	17.2	17.0	14.5	70.2	92.9	+32
Detroit, Mich.	64.8	42.4	62.5	71.4	74.9	79.8	321.9	372.5	+16
Indianapolis, Ind.	11.3	4.7	9.3	8.1	14.4	10.7	50.5	53.8	+ 7
Los Angeles, Calif.	130.8	103.4	157.6	158.9	148.6	141.5	624.7	822.5	+32
Memphis, Tenn.	21.3	6.0	6.7	8.5	7.4	8.0	44.8	45.2	+ 1
Miami, Fla.	20.2	25.5	28.3	21.4	20.0	26.5	107.0	141.9	+33
Milwaukee, Wis.	19.5	21.6	14.4	16.1	16.6	15.7	91.4	89.6	- 2
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	123.5	88.8	144.9	149.0	153.8	173.3	715.2	818.9	+14
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	6.5	4.6	6.8	7.3	6.4	8.8	37.3	38.3	+ 3
Phoenix, Ariz.	6.8	10.2	12.2	10.6	10.2	8.6	47.8	60.9	+27
Rochester, N. Y.	6.6	5.4	5.9	8.9	8.8	9.2	29.4	45.9	+56
Salt Lake City, Utah	7.4	2.6	7.7	6.8	4.3	7.7	25.4	31.0	+22
San Diego, Calif.	20.5	13.7	12.7	16.1	14.1	18.7	84.4	89.0	+ 5
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	40.9	30.2	53.0	49.3	45.2	45.0	193.7	251.5	+30
Seattle, Wash.	15.7	12.8	17.9	15.3	17.3	15.5	77.0	95.6	+24
Washington, D. C.	31.7	24.7	36.8	37.9	35.2	60.4	148.2	216.6	+46

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 18.—Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

Metropolitan area	(Housekeeping only)						First 6 months		Percent change, 1st 6 mos. 1954-55
	1954	1955					1954	1955	
	June	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	1,617	985	1,276	1,035	1,216	1,125	5,990	6,522	+ 9
Baltimore, Md.	1,193	2,512	1,382	1,440	1,091	1,190	7,600	8,811	+16
Birmingham, Ala.	402	474	509	476	548	522	2,169	2,842	+31
Boston, Mass.	964	680	1,136	1,180	1,073	1,297	5,199	6,149	+18
Buffalo, N. Y.	1,446	522	1,095	1,162	1,154	1,205	4,313	5,608	+30
Chicago, Ill.	4,973	2,827	6,090	6,365	7,865	6,082	23,847	31,487	+32
Cleveland, Ohio	1,473	876	1,365	1,755	1,487	1,700	5,853	7,928	+35
Columbus, Ohio	845	606	433	582	955	1,040	3,133	4,034	+29
Denver, Colo.	1,228	989	1,542	1,294	1,084	1,129	5,245	7,840	+49
Detroit, Mich.	3,957	2,306	3,256	4,372	4,545	4,423	19,601	21,282	+ 9
Indianapolis, Ind.	791	305	576	564	622	747	3,053	3,086	+ 1
Los Angeles, Calif.	10,164	7,455	11,618	12,024	10,431	9,449	50,436	60,022	+19
Memphis, Tenn.	675	530	496	668	879	635	3,058	4,563	+49
Miami, Fla.	1,504	1,428	1,817	1,520	1,360	1,405	8,010	9,157	+14
Milwaukee, Wis.	993	536	812	790	942	841	4,443	4,286	- 4
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	7,986	4,778	9,565	10,040	11,017	11,076	49,318	53,457	+ 8
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	620	572	632	813	758	520	3,286	3,525	+ 7
Phoenix, Ariz.	584	1,043	1,070	986	1,333	647	3,966	6,005	+51
Rochester, N. Y.	463	145	482	569	539	565	1,833	2,572	+40
Salt Lake City, Utah	483	124	555	492	278	621	1,846	2,231	+21
San Diego, Calif.	722	1,055	951	960	958	943	5,273	5,829	+11
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	3,084	2,082	3,620	3,639	2,934	2,807	13,377	17,243	+29
Seattle, Wash.	877	783	1,247	1,012	958	842	4,680	5,593	+20
Washington, D. C.	2,540	1,733	2,807	2,495	2,499	2,704	12,082	13,616	+13

Source: Department of Labor.

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Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas
by Class of Construction and Type of Building

June 1955 (Thousands of dollars)

Class of construction and type of building	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Birmingham, Ala.	Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
All building construction ¹	15,863	27,122	6,774	28,487	19,007	115,244	36,423	16,094
New dwelling units ²	10,479	11,851	3,832	13,693	11,272	80,170	25,655	12,869
New nonresidential building	3,479	13,159	1,667	10,513	5,740	28,575	6,040	2,109
Commercial buildings	2,166	6,023	545	2,837	621	9,547	3,530	824
Amusement buildings	340	39	0	119	0	923	35	390
Commercial garages	36	10	0	69	0	51	117	16
Gasoline and service stations	110	105	24	123	100	727	259	20
Office buildings	258	5,653	213	1,095	82	2,285	268	122
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	1,422	216	308	1,431	436	5,561	2,851	277
Community buildings	1,021	4,085	776	3,323	3,020	7,905	940	1,005
Educational buildings	873	3,036	545	2,213	2,273	2,964	225	950
Institutional buildings	0	0	0	265	0	2,939	0	0
Religious buildings	148	1,049	231	845	747	2,002	715	55
Garages, private residential	19	80	31	216	447	1,954	670	187
Industrial buildings	103	2,769	224	691	980	7,300	836	40
Public buildings	118	78	0	105	0	625	0	0
Public utilities buildings	49	26	89	262	14	1,045	0	0
All other nonresidential buildings	3	97	2	3,079	658	198	64	53
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,906	2,109	1,226	4,255	1,930	6,423	4,087	1,081
	Denver, Colo.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Memphis, Tenn.	Miami, Fla.	Milwaukee, Wis.	New York- Northeastern New Jersey
All building construction ¹	14,506	79,842	10,683	141,493	7,971	26,544	15,714	173,225
New dwelling units ²	9,745	51,880	8,426	92,101	4,559	13,202	10,263	114,829
New nonresidential building	2,500	23,114	1,716	35,034	2,594	6,398	3,863	47,532
Commercial buildings	770	4,158	630	12,385	1,688	4,450	512	29,296
Amusement buildings	37	0	30	301	0	463	0	1,213
Commercial garages	0	92	30	234	0	15	0	244
Gasoline and service stations	81	371	50	213	53	77	126	665
Office buildings	445	1,532	186	5,828	25	728	225	14,146
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	207	2,164	334	5,809	1,610	3,168	161	13,028
Community buildings	1,291	5,054	627	11,152	517	1,133	2,660	8,804
Educational buildings	960	3,630	282	6,379	517	768	1,800	4,234
Institutional buildings	0	171	0	3,821	0	36	0	480
Religious buildings	332	1,253	345	952	0	329	860	4,089
Garages, private residential	212	2,367	154	1,029	151	76	401	1,304
Industrial buildings	172	10,968	230	6,322	88	278	148	5,316
Public buildings	0	80	10	780	0	160	0	119
Public utilities buildings	0	181	2	86	0	35	100	2,292
All other nonresidential buildings	56	306	63	3,281	151	267	42	402
Additions, alterations, and repairs	2,243	4,668	541	14,073	818	3,090	1,589	10,809
	Norfolk- Portsmouth, Va.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Rochester, N. Y.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Diego, Calif.	San Francisco- Oakland, Calif.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D. C.
All building construction ¹	8,812	8,551	9,248	7,651	18,731	44,974	15,505	60,350
New dwelling units ²	3,879	4,956	6,310	5,908	9,420	28,871	10,247	29,735
New nonresidential building	3,945	3,058	2,210	1,104	8,067	11,145	3,809	27,892
Commercial buildings	553	1,691	826	566	506	3,875	836	2,471
Amusement buildings	8	0	0	0	23	97	355	82
Commercial garages	23	32	0	0	0	280	126	408
Gasoline and service stations	92	240	85	50	156	206	73	146
Office buildings	258	857	0	37	120	422	36	758
Stores and other mercantile bldgs..	172	562	741	479	207	2,870	246	1,078
Community buildings	58	1,198	374	229	1,882	3,210	657	21,501
Educational buildings	30	1,046	228	139	1,771	1,036	554	6,231
Institutional buildings	0	0	137	0	0	2,047	18	4,916
Religious buildings	28	152	9	90	111	128	85	10,354
Garages, private residential	62	7	179	94	158	175	67	63
Industrial buildings	6	100	805	183	110	1,547	1,978	1,381
Public buildings	3,257	0	0	0	5,129	2,009	0	2,332
Public utilities buildings	0	0	0	0	242	39	102	0
All other nonresidential buildings	8	63	26	32	40	291	170	144
Additions, alterations, and repairs	728	416	710	639	1,244	4,551	1,399	2,709

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately.² Housekeeping only.

Part IV--Contract Awards

Table 20.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction ¹

Ownership and type of construction ²	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, first 7 months 1954-55
	1954	1955							First 7 months	
	July	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	1954	1955	
ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION.....	815.3	507.0	778.0	776.3	811.1	1,083.9	704.0	4,884.8	5,181.9	+ 6
FEDERALLY OWNED.....	96.5	78.2	141.9	118.0	114.6	308.1	42.3	907.9	885.6	- 2
Residential building.....	0	8.3	0	.1	.8	10.4	1.2	3.6	20.8	(3)
Nonresidential building.....	66.1	30.0	100.2	74.7	61.7	226.7	24.5	587.2	562.6	- 4
Educational.....	1.2	.3	.1	1.2	.2	.9	.8	9.9	3.5	-65
Hospital and institutional.....	.5	.4	5.8	6.7	2.9	40.3	1.2	41.9	64.1	+53
Administrative and general.....	3.3	1.9	4.6	3.5	4.7	7.9	.9	23.1	27.3	+18
Other nonresidential building.....	61.1	27.4	89.7	63.3	53.9	177.6	21.6	512.3	467.7	- 9
Airfield building.....	3.6	4.9	17.5	10.4	9.3	27.3	1.2	63.9	85.4	+34
Industrial.....	19.6	10.5	48.6	18.3	16.1	86.6	7.3	284.2	194.2	-32
Troop housing.....	.8	.6	6.3	11.0	5.7	11.3	.7	22.9	39.3	+72
Warehouses.....	25.1	6.3	7.5	6.3	6.3	25.5	7.8	71.6	61.2	-15
All other.....	12.0	5.1	9.8	17.3	16.5	26.9	4.6	69.7	87.6	+26
Airfields.....	12.5	10.6	16.2	17.9	9.7	18.3	2.7	102.8	97.7	- 5
Conservation and development.....	6.6	20.8	12.2	12.4	26.8	28.3	8.7	101.1	115.3	+14
Highway.....	7.2	2.9	6.0	5.4	4.8	9.7	4.5	34.2	36.1	+ 6
Electric power utilities.....	.7	3.1	4.3	3.2	5.6	3.3	(4)	39.3	20.8	-47
All other federally owned.....	3.4	2.5	3.0	4.3	5.2	11.4	.7	39.7	32.3	-19
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED.....	718.8	428.8	636.1	658.3	696.5	775.8	661.7	3,976.9	4,296.3	+ 8
Residential building.....	37.5	16.6	16.5	14.5	27.2	19.4	18.1	171.8	120.2	-30
Nonresidential building.....	292.5	183.9	260.7	246.6	251.7	262.1	284.9	1,683.4	1,714.2	+ 2
Educational.....	206.9	137.6	206.0	199.7	186.2	182.8	215.7	1,223.3	1,260.1	+ 3
Hospital and institutional.....	37.4	12.2	10.6	15.7	26.9	19.4	15.5	150.5	120.6	-20
Administrative and general.....	20.3	15.1	24.5	14.0	18.2	27.7	22.5	138.8	150.0	+ 8
Other nonresidential building.....	27.9	19.0	19.6	17.2	20.4	32.2	31.2	170.8	183.5	+ 7
Highway.....	292.7	161.0	248.3	268.7	238.8	349.7	255.8	1,524.0	1,643.7	+ 8
Sewerage systems.....	46.4	28.1	44.0	46.3	37.4	49.1	38.7	272.4	279.4	+ 3
Water supply facilities.....	24.8	24.0	28.2	26.8	27.1	27.3	26.5	164.7	187.5	+14
Utilities.....	13.7	8.2	29.0	43.8	102.3	57.5	28.0	99.3	281.5	+183
Electric power.....	7.1	3.9	2.0	34.2	85.0	36.7	4.7	47.3	170.8	+261
Other utilities.....	6.6	4.3	27.0	9.6	17.3	20.8	23.3	52.0	110.7	+113
All other State and locally owned.....	11.2	7.0	9.4	11.6	12.0	10.7	9.7	61.3	69.8	+14

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes major force-account projects started, principally by TVA and State highway departments. ² Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. ³ Percent increase exceeds 300. ⁴ Less than \$50,000.

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility ¹

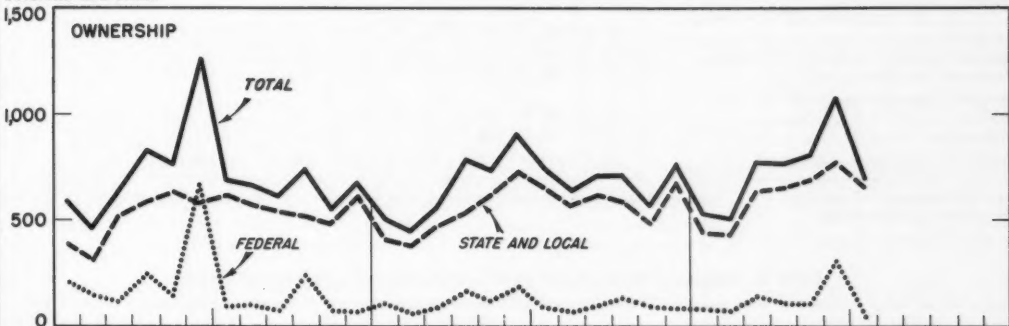
Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, first 7 months 1954-55
	1954	1955							First 7 months	
	July	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	1954	1955	
ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION.....	299.9	163.9	254.3	274.1	243.6	359.4	260.3	1,558.2	1,679.8	+ 8
FEDERALLY OWNED.....	7.2	2.9	6.0	5.4	4.8	9.7	4.5	34.2	36.1	+ 6
STATE OWNED.....	209.3	145.5	228.3	236.5	190.2	296.4	204.3	1,285.6	1,408.4	+10
Federally aided projects:										
Total value.....	125.9	79.3	83.5	112.1	99.6	139.3	115.3	688.9	679.6	- 1
Federal funds.....	63.7	43.0	44.1	61.1	52.7	72.9	61.4	353.6	362.5	+ 3
Independent State projects:										
Total value.....	83.4	66.2	144.8	124.4	90.6	157.1	89.0	596.7	728.8	+22
Toll facilities.....	26.0	30.3	102.2	69.8	37.0	84.7	30.0	211.8	386.9	+83
LOCALLY OWNED ²	83.4	15.6	20.0	32.2	48.6	53.3	51.5	238.4	235.3	- 1

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes force-account work started on Federal and State Projects. ² By municipalities and counties.

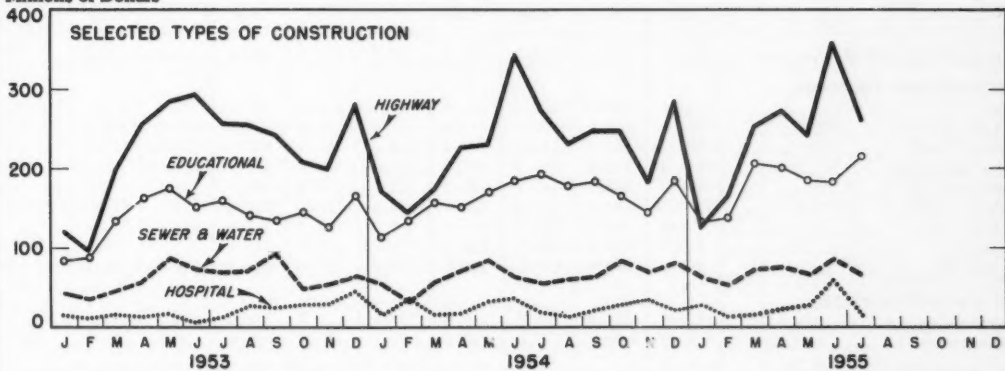
Chart 7.

Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

Millions of Dollars



Millions of Dollars



SOURCE: DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

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Table 22.—Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)			Percent change		
	August 1955	July 1955	First 8 months, 1955	August 1955 from—		First 8 months, 1954-55
				July 1955	August 1954	
TOTAL	1,895	2,272	16,130	-17	+20	+27
Building construction	1,517	1,852	12,939	-18	+22	+29
Residential	835	959	7,232	-13	+21	+33
Nonresidential	682	893	5,707	-24	+24	+24
Engineering	378	420	3,191	-10	+15	+21
Public works	299	332	2,340	-10	+14	+18
Utilities	79	88	851	-10	+18	+29

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation.

Part V--Costs

Table 23.--Construction Cost Indexes

Compiler and coverage	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, August 1954-55
	1955						1952	1953	1954	
	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Aug.	Aug.	Aug.	
American Appraisal Company	127.7	127.9	128.4	128.5	130.0	130.4	118.7	124.0	126.4	+3
Associated General Contractors	133.6	134.2	134.5	135.8	137.0	137.0	121.5	128.7	133.0	+3
E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average):										
Residences	121.9	122.6	123.3	124.2	124.6	124.9	120.2	122.1	120.7	+3
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings	128.2	128.9	129.5	130.5	131.5	131.8	123.4	127.2	127.4	+3
Commercial and factory buildings	129.2	130.0	130.6	131.4	133.1	133.4	123.5	127.7	128.5	+4
Engineering News-Record (as of Sept. 1):										
Building	136.2	136.8	137.5	138.3	141.4	141.7	125.5	128.9	134.4	+5
Construction	142.9	144.2	144.8	145.7	148.4	148.5	129.4	134.8	141.3	+5
Department of Commerce composite ¹	123.2	123.9	124.3	124.7	126.0	126.3	120.3	123.0	121.9	+4

Source: Department of Commerce.
relative importance of each type.

¹ A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current

Table 24.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

Commodity	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, August 1954-55
	1955						1952	1953	1954	
	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Aug.	Aug.	Aug.	
ALL BUILDING MATERIALS ¹	122.8	123.4	124.1	124.1	125.7	127.4	118.6	120.8	120.8	+ 5
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:										
Lumber	121.6	122.9	124.2	124.7	125.1	126.4	120.6	119.3	118.7	+ 6
Douglas fir	127.0	128.5	130.5	131.9	132.3	134.1	128.3	115.5	124.5	+ 8
Southern pine	114.4	113.9	114.0	113.4	113.6	115.1	117.0	115.0	111.5	+ 3
Other softwoods	134.4	136.8	137.3	137.8	138.2	138.4	129.7	134.0	130.2	+ 6
Hardwoods	114.3	115.7	117.9	118.2	118.9	120.4	110.9	115.8	112.1	+ 7
Millwork	128.7	129.3	129.3	128.3	128.3	128.3	127.2	131.7	129.7	- 1
Plywood	104.8	104.8	105.6	105.6	105.7	105.7	106.0	112.4	105.4	(2)
Softwood	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.7	110.7	112.9	115.4	114.7	- 3
Hardwood	100.9	100.9	102.6	102.6	102.6	102.6	101.1	110.3	98.8	+ 4
PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:										
Prepared paint	114.0	114.8	114.8	114.8	114.8	114.8	110.6	110.7	112.8	+ 2
Paint materials	95.9	96.2	97.0	96.9	97.1	97.6	98.1	96.0	97.8	(2)
METAL PRODUCTS:										
Structural shapes	146.2	146.2	146.2	146.2	157.5	157.5	134.9	141.9	146.2	+ 8
Hardware, finish	139.9	139.9	139.9	139.9	139.9	139.9	122.3	133.4	135.8	+ 3
Plumbing equipment	123.0	123.3	123.3	123.2	123.2	128.1	118.1	118.7	118.5	+ 8
Enameled iron fixtures	129.3	129.3	129.3	129.3	129.3	131.9	122.6	129.2	129.2	+ 2
Vitreous china fixtures	117.1	117.3	117.3	117.3	117.3	123.0	123.0	111.7	111.7	+10
Brass fittings	123.4	123.4	123.4	123.4	123.4	129.4	113.1	117.1	116.5	+11
Heating equipment	113.6	113.6	113.5	113.5	113.6	115.5	113.7	115.6	114.1	+ 1
Furnaces	119.8	119.8	119.8	119.8	119.8	121.9	117.1	119.7	120.6	+ 1
Water heaters	107.7	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	110.2	113.3	111.6	108.4	+ 2
Metal sash	132.5	133.2	133.2	133.2	144.2	146.4	117.7	127.3	131.4	+11
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:										
Glass, plate	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	137.5	137.5	120.9	132.0	132.0	+ 4
Glass, window	131.3	135.1	135.1	138.8	138.8	138.8	118.0	131.3	131.3	+ 6
Concrete ingredients	124.1	124.8	124.7	124.9	125.0	125.3	112.9	118.6	122.2	+ 3
Portland cement	130.1	131.5	131.5	131.6	131.8	131.8	116.4	123.8	128.3	+ 3
Concrete products	118.2	118.2	118.2	118.3	118.3	118.6	112.4	116.1	117.9	+ 1
Structural clay products	136.3	136.8	137.0	137.3	141.3	142.9	121.3	131.4	132.3	+ 8
Gypsum products	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	117.7	122.1	122.1	0
Insulation materials	98.8	98.5	105.8	106.7	110.8	114.5	106.0	105.8	98.6	+16
Asphalt roofing	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	105.1	107.8	110.1	- 3
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:										
Building board	129.7	129.7	129.7	129.7	129.7	133.3	115.8	123.0	127.6	+ 4
Kitchen cabinets, metal	128.2	128.2	128.2	128.2	131.7	133.9	125.2	127.2	127.6	+ 5

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Includes items not shown separately.

² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 25.—Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		July	June	July
LUMBER				
Douglas fir:				
Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2"x4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	\$76.972	\$77.119	\$74.518
Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1"x8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	68.094	67.767	66.052
Timbers, No. 1, 8"x8" to 12"x12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	76.307	74.905	69.723
Southern pine:				
Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2"x4"x16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	80.823	80.456	78.128
Boards, No. 2 and better, 1"x6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	77.434	77.174	74.624
Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1"x8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	80.410	80.050	70.650
Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	191.970	191.970	167.649
Maple flooring 2d grade, 25/32" x2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	180.690	178.090	171.694
Poplar, plain, No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	55.000	55.000	59.000
Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	47.000	47.000	55.000
MILLWORK				
Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6"x6'8"x1-3/8", f.o.b. factory	Each	4.829	4.829	4.427
Door frame, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16" x2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory	Each	9.326	9.326	9.308
Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory	Each	1.662	1.662	1.653
PLYWOOD				
Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	80.807	80.807	79.863
Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	70.660	70.660	65.890
BOARD				
Insulation, fiber, 1/2"x48"x96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	54.000	54.000	53.000
PREPARED PAINT				
Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered	Gallon	2.399	2.399	2.372
Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.706	3.706	3.682
Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.628	4.628	4.497
Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	2.945	2.945	2.868
Outside, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.348	4.348	4.342
METAL PRODUCTS				
Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6"x4"x1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	4.867	4.517	4.517
Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15, 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	5.313	4.963	5.058
Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	7.690	7.220	7.140
Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, butt weld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	16.366	15.000	15.000
Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, butt weld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	19.971	18.605	18.310
Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill	100 lb. keg	8.618	7.815	7.815
Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49 = 100)	Ton	(111.3)	(111.3)	(105.5)
Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64"x48"x144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping point, freight allowed	Pound	\$0.377	\$0.377	(1)
Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed	Foot	.281	.281	\$0.253
Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts	M ft.	14.110	14.110	10.625
Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18x14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory	Linear ft. roll	24.540	24.540	24.220
PLUMBING EQUIPMENT				
Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	53.841	53.841	53.841
Lavatory, enameled iron, 20"x18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	12.858	12.858	12.858
Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	23.242	23.242	21.778
Sink, enameled steel, 32"x21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	16.634	16.634	16.057

See footnotes at end of table

Table 25.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		July	June	July
HEATING EQUIPMENT				
Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	\$183.142	\$183.142	\$184.880
Convactor, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Sq. ft., incl. enclosure	.433	.433	.432
Furnace, warm air:				
Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	247.732	247.732	256.572
Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	157.008	157.008	170.059
Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	62.070	62.070	56.967
Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type), 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	102.225	102.225	104.245
Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	38.350	38.350	(1)
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS				
Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.160	1.160	1.158
Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.395	1.395	1.393
Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.589	1.589	1.539
Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant	Each	.175	.175	.177
Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 3'-8' lengths, delivered	Foot	3.810	3.810	3.685
Brick, building, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	28.952	28.846	28.193
Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	37.717	37.717	36.807
Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant	Thousand	126.629	126.629	122.219
Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant	Foot	.488	.488	.450
Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16"x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	24.010	24.010	24.010
Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	31.850	31.850	31.850
Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Ton	14.948	14.948	14.948
Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Square	5.564	5.349	5.067
Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant	Ton	19.778	19.444	17.914
Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Square	10.306	10.306	9.580

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Not available.**HOUSEHOLD FORMATION**

The number of households in the United States increased from 43.6 million in 1950 to 47.8 million in 1955. All of the advance was in urban and rural nonfarm areas. Nonfarm households increased at an average annual rate of nearly 1 million from 1950 to 1955, compared with an average decline of 150,000 annually in farm households. The rate of household formation for the 1950-55 period was considerably less than in the postwar years 1947-50.

These are partial results from a recent Bureau of the Census report (Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 59; Households and Families, by Type: 1947-55) which gives detailed information on the number and characteristics of households and families. Copies may be obtained from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C., at 10 cents each.

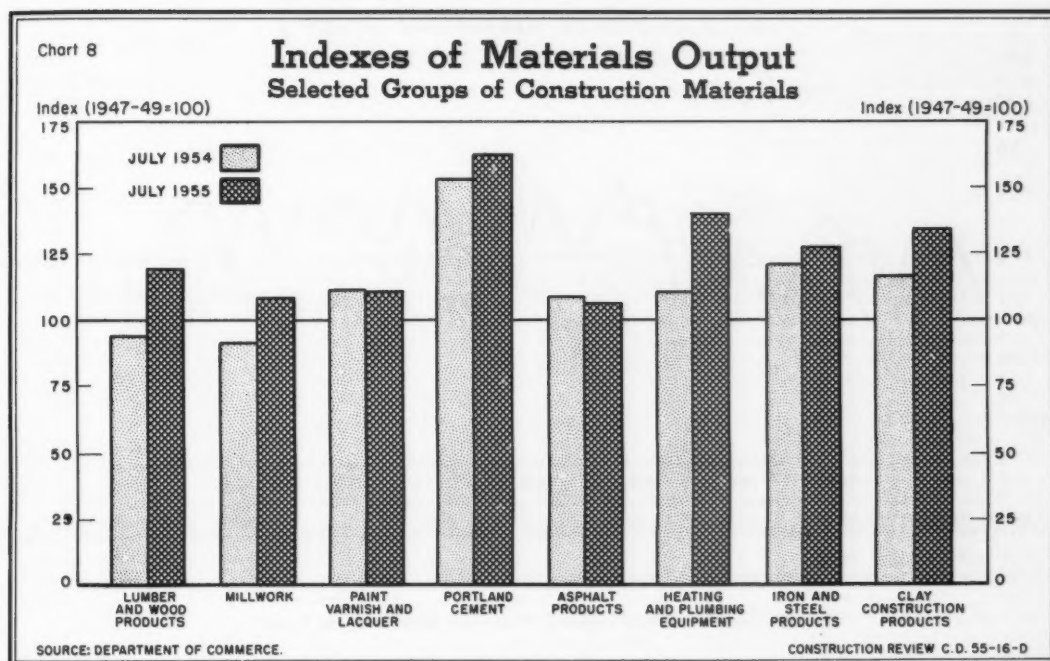


Table 26--Construction Materials: Indexes of Output

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

Materials group	Monthly Indexes											
	1954						1955					
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Lumber and wood products....	93.9	107.6	126.6	133.5	127.5	124.9	117.7	116.7	136.4	129.9	136.6	142.3
Millwork	91.3	122.0	144.5	143.5	131.8	134.8	131.4	131.0	155.2	140.3	128.7	135.9
Paint, varnish, and lacquer	111.9	111.5	104.9	93.4	86.9	75.6	94.3	86.6	114.1	117.3	127.3	133.6
Portland cement	152.3	153.6	152.8	154.9	142.6	133.3	121.0	105.4	134.0	148.6	161.9	160.2
Asphalt products	109.3	123.2	143.5	122.0	104.6	68.0	71.6	79.8	125.3	125.1	121.3	146.8
Heating and plumbing equipment	111.0	145.3	155.8	158.8	127.6	112.5	115.9	114.9	141.2	129.5	130.3	143.8
Iron and steel products	121.4	126.9	124.3	121.3	105.6	97.6	104.5	104.5	130.1	133.5	136.2	154.2
Clay construction products..	117.6	125.1	126.6	123.3	123.7	120.6	112.8	108.1	132.2	126.0	135.0	145.6
Quarterly Indexes												
	1954				1955							
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Gypsum products	132.8	152.3	158.9	162.2	168.9	173.7						
Plumbing fixtures	102.7	100.9	101.4	123.1	133.5	139.1*						

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following.

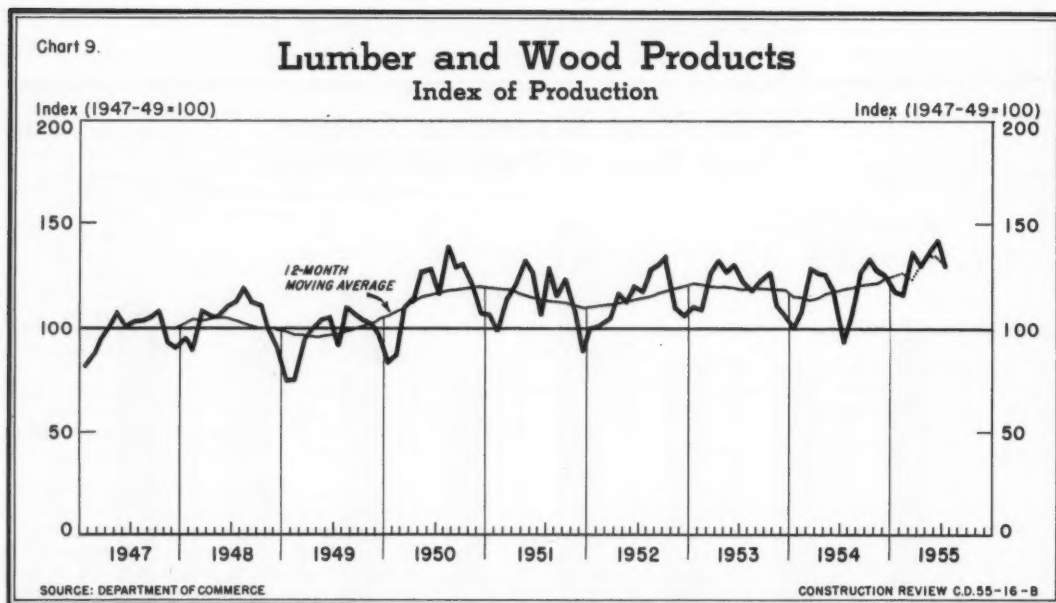


Table 27.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Softwood lumber (Million board feet)			Hardwood flooring (Thousand board feet)			Douglas fir plywood (Million square feet)	Insulating boards (Tons)	Hardboard (Tons)
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production		
1947-49 average.....	28,048	27,440	4,448	812,365	789,437	44,455	1,802	766,269	294,214
Year: 1952.....	30,477	30,578	4,980	1,004,117	1,001,672	86,938	3,051	879,655	396,219
1953.....	31,072	30,318	5,756	1,004,558	1,010,972	73,449	3,704	952,562	423,428
1954.....	29,296	29,798	5,275	1,145,118	1,139,091	68,425	3,825	1,015,813	493,258
12 months ending:									
April 1955.....	29,850	30,443	--	1,202,184	1,207,255	--	4,110	1,081,108	510,133
May 1955.....	30,012	30,671	--	1,221,281	1,226,604	--	4,190	1,083,748	514,830
June 1955.....	30,499	31,019	--	1,240,799	1,243,223	--	4,339	1,075,468	517,530
July 1955.....	30,938	31,355	--	1,250,040	1,249,777	--	4,518	1,081,160	520,810
1954: July.....	2,025	2,256	5,253	94,037	98,340	62,583	142	85,910	40,890
August.....	2,317	2,411	5,161	101,799	104,247	59,768	207	89,862	41,791
September.....	2,650	2,656	5,153	104,340	104,572	56,859	332	88,860	42,409
October.....	2,715	2,693	5,175	104,788	105,116	56,456	393	96,961	43,268
November.....	2,553	2,473	5,254	102,146	98,488	59,874	395	89,164	43,744
December.....	2,499	2,479	5,275	102,284	92,910	68,425	393	84,239	38,535
1955: January.....	2,309	2,311	5,238	97,476	98,885	64,016	393	94,753	43,641
February.....	2,320	2,293	5,284	93,925	94,946	62,945	389	86,784	39,722
March.....	2,734	2,819	5,205	110,093	111,090	61,076	444	97,328	46,368
April.....	2,629	2,754	5,121	104,293	108,160	55,183	413	87,850	44,844
May.....	2,802	2,827	5,107	109,546	109,787	55,200	409	92,160	46,759
June.....	2,946	3,047	5,007	116,072	116,682	53,454	429	81,597	45,579
July.....	2,464	2,592	4,869	103,278	104,894	51,788	321	91,602	44,170
Percent change									
July, 1954-55.....	+22	+15	-7	+10	+7	-17	+26	+7	+8
First 7 mos., 1954-55.....	+10	+9	--	+17	+17	--	+33	+12	+10

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSD) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census.

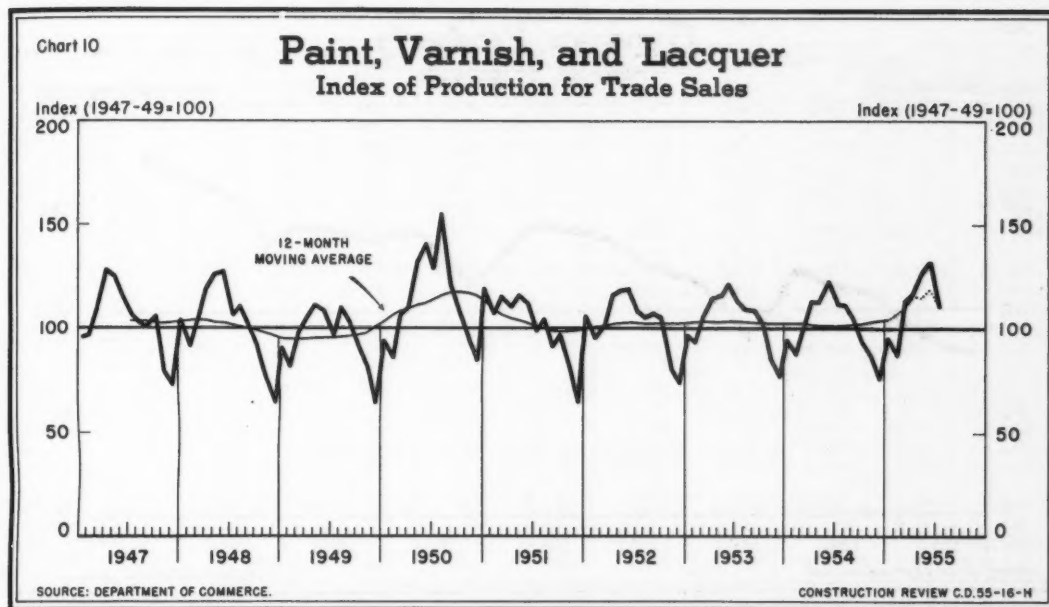


Table 28.--Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production

Period	Production (Thousands of units)					Production for trade sales (Thousands of gallons)
	Douglas fir doors (panel type)	Ponderosa pine doors	Hardwood doors	Sash	Exterior frames	Paint, varnish, & lacquer
1947-49 average.....	5,658	3,780	3,172	11,246	4,152	266,701
Year: 1952.....	5,288	2,417	4,373	10,514	4,543	274,992
1953.....	4,070	2,487	4,783	11,419	5,072	276,326
1954.....	3,522	2,285	5,940	11,054	5,791	271,235
12 months ending:						
April 1955.....	3,599	2,376	6,769	12,415	6,497	274,297
May 1955.....	3,556	2,396	6,835	12,624	6,655	277,399
June 1955.....	3,507	2,379	6,915	12,761	6,927	279,451
July 1955.....	3,606	2,385	6,958	12,862	7,065	279,174
1954: July.....	85	127	447	716	399	24,874
August.....	71	220	608	919	498	24,777
September.....	342	235	593	1,247	634	23,309
October.....	346	229	591	1,227	629	20,752
November.....	377	191	553	1,128	518	19,320
December.....	383	209	560	1,124	537	16,775
1955: January.....	362	196	562	1,017	527	20,969
February.....	355	184	565	1,061	522	19,254
March.....	415	236	657	1,181	653	25,370
April.....	301	187	646	987	591	26,072
May.....	254	182	554	1,050	606	28,285
June.....	216	182	579	1,104	720	29,694
July.....	184	133	490	817	537	24,597
Percent change						
July, 1954-55.....	+116	+5	+10	+14	+35	-1
First 7 mos., 1954-55.....	+4	+8	+33	+32	+40	+5

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine and hardwood doors, sash and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

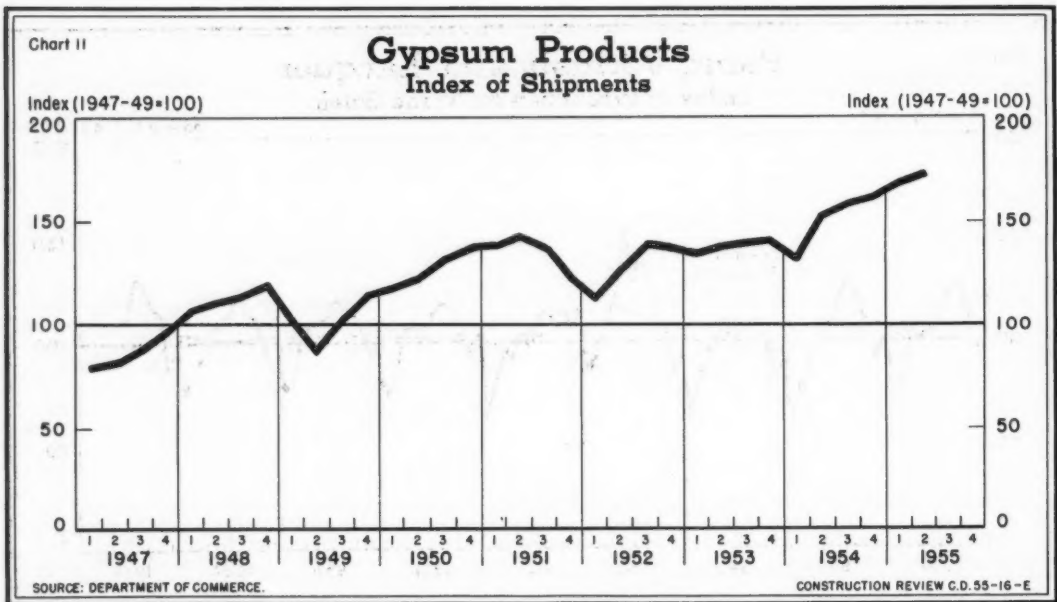


Table 29.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Pro- duction	Ship- ments	Stocks	Shipments (Thousands of squares)				Shipments (Million square feet)	
	(Thousands of barrels)			Asphalt prepared roofing	Asphalt siding	Asphalt insulated brick siding	Asphalt and tar saturated felts	Gypsum board ¹	Gypsum lath ¹
	Portland cement								
1947-49 average	200,607	199,306	11,922	61,252	3,365	2,811	17,087	2,478	2,075
Year: 1952	249,091	251,137	15,964	57,938	1,858	2,718	23,577	3,457	2,315
1953	264,022	260,889	19,231	56,703	1,557	2,794	25,778	3,757	2,435
1954	271,277	274,096	16,722	58,648	1,447	2,297	28,531	4,217	2,484
12 months ending:									
April 1955	279,885	281,198	--	62,576	1,422	2,210	31,533	4,475	2,690
May 1955	283,672	285,459	--	63,174	1,399	2,218	31,564		
June 1955	287,653	288,087	--	63,640	1,357	2,226	32,224		
July 1955	289,503	289,852	--	63,621	1,334	2,189	32,200		
1954: July	25,482	27,702	17,524	5,251	115	233	2,330	1,079	689
August	25,698	28,887	14,408	6,029	147	260	2,460		
September	25,522	29,032	10,907	7,062	153	256	3,036		
October	25,887	27,134	9,667	6,088	144	221	2,436	1,144	642
November	23,826	22,766	10,732	5,108	125	159	2,360		
December	22,290	16,347	16,722	3,094	86	97	1,852		
1955: January	20,231	13,520	23,434	3,190	85	93	2,091	1,181	683
February	17,612	14,031	27,018	3,264	79	108	2,711		
March	22,409	22,941	26,486	5,533	125	161	3,758		
April	24,847	25,295	26,039	6,099	98	172	2,977	1,200	724
May	27,066	29,172	23,610	5,972	91	227	2,568		
June	26,783	31,260	18,828	6,950	109	233	3,647		
July	27,332	29,467	16,720	5,232	92	196	2,306		
Percent change									
July, 1954-55	+ 7	+ 6	- 5	(2)	(2)	-16	- 1	--	--
First 7 mos., 1954-55	+12	+11	--	+16	-14	- 9	+22	--	--

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census.

¹ Data reported on quarterly basis. ² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

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Table 30.--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State

State	(Thousands of barrels)								
	1955			Calendar year			12 months ending--		
	Apr.	May	June	1952	1953	1954	Apr. 1955	May 1955	June 1955
Alabama	305	319	329	3,883	4,260	3,943	3,948	3,945	3,902
Arizona	226	226	196	2,119	2,433	2,215	2,260	2,310	2,320
Arkansas	257	273	253	1,940	1,762	1,894	2,454	2,583	2,617
California	2,737	2,837	2,973	25,367	27,737	28,528	30,015	30,258	30,633
Colorado	332	332	371	2,826	2,941	3,285	3,307	3,308	3,257
Connecticut	314	386	374	2,977	3,194	3,258	3,273	3,364	3,445
Delaware	76	97	139	861	902	910	959	975	1,007
District of Columbia	135	135	136	1,156	1,249	1,324	1,356	1,370	1,381
Florida	757	759	723	6,680	7,487	8,354	8,902	9,047	9,099
Georgia	427	457	474	4,161	4,644	4,441	4,524	4,602	4,631
Idaho	88	107	109	1,116	986	1,215	1,189	1,189	1,157
Illinois	1,304	1,526	1,603	13,327	13,439	14,973	15,139	15,136	14,925
Indiana	702	730	894	6,207	6,568	6,724	6,867	6,945	7,053
Iowa	362	759	761	4,890	4,941	5,863	5,877	6,061	6,113
Kansas	845	808	825	5,939	5,801	6,576	6,816	7,049	7,146
Kentucky	277	333	347	3,621	3,354	3,026	2,931	2,989	3,008
Louisiana	555	589	686	5,869	5,728	6,292	6,428	6,513	6,618
Maine	92	111	104	692	894	857	948	966	1,042
Maryland	459	509	461	4,363	4,676	4,447	4,489	4,606	4,620
Massachusetts	459	631	580	4,347	4,351	4,180	4,328	4,587	4,863
Michigan	1,185	1,521	1,653	11,255	12,716	13,076	13,561	13,681	13,813
Minnesota	478	761	737	4,748	4,968	5,500	5,816	6,028	5,932
Mississippi	144	176	208	1,705	1,696	1,732	1,750	1,788	1,811
Missouri	749	674	865	6,319	6,796	7,556	7,581	7,528	7,518
Montana	66	96	125	1,358	949	1,019	981	980	961
Nebraska	294	479	504	2,629	3,384	3,724	3,701	3,846	3,886
Nevada	73	65	73	625	618	842	789	784	776
New Hampshire	80	130	179	451	549	827	866	929	1,055
New Jersey	823	991	1,020	8,084	8,581	9,164	8,991	9,079	9,254
New Mexico	186	184	194	1,645	1,860	2,111	2,169	2,167	2,156
New York	1,655	2,141	2,373	16,905	19,134	20,290	20,150	20,428	20,876
North Carolina	404	491	452	3,896	3,715	4,009	4,081	4,230	4,271
North Dakota	151	110	146	1,062	1,148	1,161	1,262	1,242	1,188
Ohio	1,341	1,923	2,269	13,021	14,286	16,003	16,077	16,603	17,192
Oklahoma	494	419	423	4,677	4,158	4,364	4,411	4,488	4,452
Oregon	147	239	248	2,902	2,445	2,081	2,132	2,181	2,214
Pennsylvania	1,311	1,673	1,871	15,055	15,234	15,108	15,182	15,437	15,697
Rhode Island	68	88	98	1,015	857	685	668	690	734
South Carolina	202	255	225	2,961	2,217	1,993	1,952	2,022	2,066
South Dakota	89	107	125	1,113	1,246	1,116	1,148	1,143	1,107
Tennessee	390	433	464	4,702	4,856	4,683	4,551	4,616	4,612
Texas	1,745	1,745	1,833	17,249	16,158	19,081	20,168	20,351	20,378
Utah	172	197	197	1,343	1,343	1,508	1,539	1,594	1,614
Vermont	22	40	45	321	300	242	241	255	280
Virginia	422	460	475	4,652	4,701	4,474	4,513	4,611	4,626
Washington	539	561	603	4,954	5,413	5,684	5,885	5,897	5,945
West Virginia	134	168	198	1,791	1,921	2,379	2,264	2,178	2,066
Wisconsin	473	672	732	5,673	6,127	5,840	6,043	6,114	6,041
Wyoming	47	63	65	561	538	585	561	569	563

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

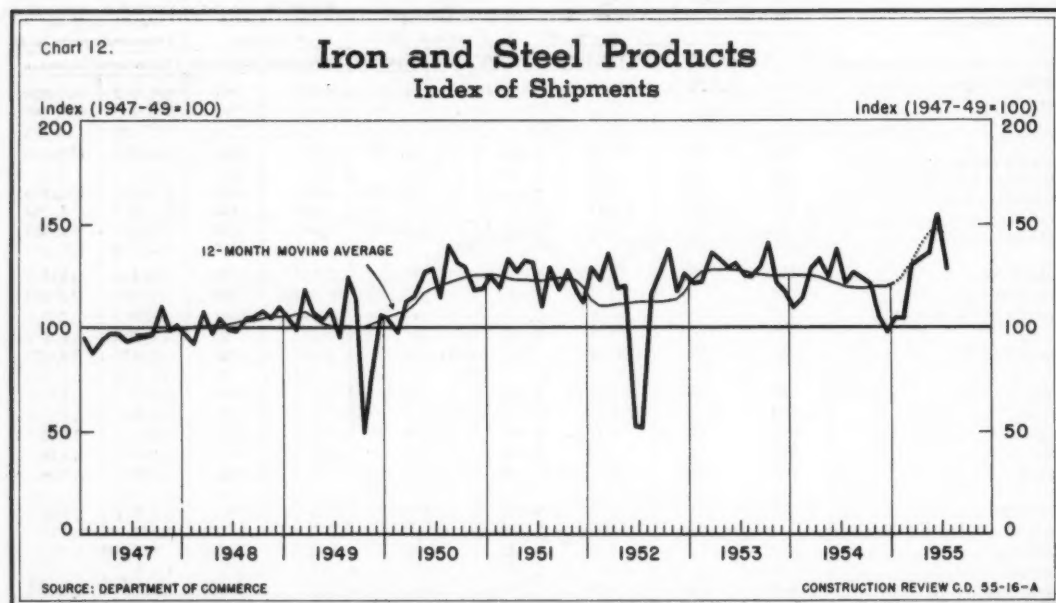


Table 31.--Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog

(Thousands of tons)

Period	Shipments									Ship- ments	Book- ings	Back- log ¹
	Line pipe	Concrete reinforc- ing bars	Gal- vanized sheets	Nails	Piling	Rails	Cast-iron pipe		Rigid steel con- duit				Fabricated structural steel
							Pres- sure	Soil				
1947-49 average	1,975	1,523	1,669	797	309	2,167	1,075	604	226	2,248	2,105	--
Year: 1952.....	2,882	1,813	1,961	651	235	1,454	1,312	651	225	2,664	2,504	1,033
1953.....	3,507	1,849	2,291	529	343	1,954	1,286	677	221	3,117	2,787	1,010
1954.....	2,595	1,751	2,363	567	388	1,196	1,376	744	228	3,136	2,510	743
12 months ending:												
April 1955.....	2,387	1,845	2,533	608	360	992	1,435	804	251	2,967	2,716	--
May 1955.....	2,395	1,897	2,567	620	368	1,031	1,481	814	255	2,936	2,820	--
June 1955.....	2,468	1,895	2,614	639	372	1,050	1,497	831	256	2,928	2,919	--
July 1955.....	2,552	1,904	2,605	641	378	1,074	1,528	839	268	2,881	3,020	--
1954: July.....	212	168	214	47	26	80	98	59	23	265	263	872
August.....	232	152	207	53	40	71	127	68	23	272	193	822
September.....	225	151	210	55	26	63	124	71	22	265	207	797
October.....	203	150	209	49	38	59	130	68	22	258	212	763
November.....	132	138	197	43	31	49	118	65	23	230	195	730
December.....	92	123	206	32	28	40	111	55	20	224	197	743
1955: January.....	119	116	211	49	21	97	101	61	19	226	241	781
February.....	135	128	199	51	27	103	95	67	20	213	234	802
March.....	254	161	239	61	29	122	130	83	23	228	285	877
April.....	253	184	239	62	27	118	146	76	19	242	270	881
May.....	265	215	236	63	40	121	169	75	21	223	303	938
June.....	348	209	247	74	39	127	147	84	23	282	318	991
July.....	296	177	205	49	32	104	129	67	35	218	364	1,009
Percent change												
July, 1954-55	+40	+ 5	- 4	+ 4	+23	+30	+32	+14	+52	-18	+38	+16
First 7 mos., 1954-55	- 3	+15	+18	+22	- 5	-13	+20	+23	+35	-14	+34	--

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. ¹ Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months.

Table 32.—Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments

Period	Brick, common and face (Million brick)		Structural clay tile (Thousand tons)		Vitrified clay sewer pipe (Thousand tons)		Hollow facing tile (Million brick equivalent)		Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (Thousand square feet)	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
1947-49 average	5,504	5,324	1,286	1,231	1,451	1,375	357	341	104,800	101,088
Year: 1952	5,889	5,642	977	994	1,649	1,548	413	389	132,085	123,267
1953	5,875	5,771	990	922	1,655	1,563	456	444	137,429	134,375
1954	6,153	6,119	953	895	1,702	1,636	457	444	141,066	139,515
12 months ending:										
April 1955	6,458	6,440	917	879	1,749	1,684	452	439	152,601	152,490
May 1955	6,549	6,564	902	870	1,769	1,722	453	441	156,659	157,254
June 1955	6,649	6,660	892	863	1,797	1,769	449	439	161,105	162,581
July 1955	6,734	6,713	881	854	1,814	1,787	444	435	164,073	165,852
1954: July	538	574	84	79	135	153	40	38	11,446	11,765
August	583	587	84	81	149	162	40	40	11,610	12,368
September	576	589	81	77	156	158	38	38	12,399	12,756
October	561	571	81	79	148	153	37	38	12,308	12,272
November	557	549	80	72	149	140	40	38	12,477	12,222
December	519	464	69	64	151	122	42	39	12,880	12,358
1955: January	468	412	66	64	132	101	36	33	13,973	13,258
February	446	405	65	60	134	109	33	33	13,111	12,528
March	563	568	72	69	163	149	40	39	15,338	15,807
April	569	605	65	70	143	147	32	31	14,550	14,820
May	614	652	68	72	157	178	34	34	15,077	15,491
June	654	684	77	77	179	197	37	38	15,936	16,936
July	623	627	73	70	152	171	35	34	14,414	15,036
Percent change										
July, 1954-55	+16	+9	-13	-11	+13	+12	-13	-11	+26	+28
First 7 mos., 1954-55	+17	+18	-13	-8	+17	+16	-5	-3	+29	+34

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 33.—Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region ¹

Census region	PRODUCTION				SHIPMENTS			
	July 1955		First 7 months 1955		July 1955		First 7 months 1955	
	Quantity	Percent change from July 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55	Quantity	Percent change from July 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55
Brick, common and face (thousands)								
U. S. TOTAL	623,164	+16	3,937,104	+17	627,200	+9	3,954,609	+18
New England	12,976	+12	70,320	+9	11,277	-8	63,431	+1
Middle Atlantic	96,522	+5	608,185	+1	108,898	+3	627,778	+7
East North Central	138,928	+13	898,363	+14	139,760	-1	888,539	+12
West North Central	34,920	+33	205,604	+32	34,213	+24	193,963	+26
South Atlantic	149,754	+17	976,010	+20	152,231	+19	1,009,019	+25
East South Central	56,777	+13	370,583	+21	57,159	+10	372,451	+21
West South Central	74,989	+33	476,686	+27	68,008	+11	454,522	+23
Mountain	20,799	+18	137,499	+26	19,684	+12	133,057	+20
Pacific	37,501	+13	194,044	+40	35,970	+28	211,849	+26
Structural clay tile (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	72,615	-13	486,454	-13	69,870	-11	481,975	-8
Middle Atlantic	7,527	+1	47,630	(2)	6,521	-18	49,699	+9
East North Central	12,845	+1	78,586	+12	13,166	+21	81,921	+12
West North Central	10,653	-44	65,927	-33	9,153	-42	62,989	-27
South Atlantic	12,167	-19	87,910	-20	13,368	-11	94,407	-3
East South Central	4,875	-43	40,951	-28	4,730	-34	42,369	-14
West South Central	22,263	+21	152,763	-1	21,156	+11	138,382	-9
Mountain & Pacific	2,285	-18	12,687	-41	1,776	-35	12,028	-34
Vitrified clay sewer pipe (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	151,504	+12	1,059,911	+12	170,587	+11	1,050,806	+17
Middle Atlantic	16,482	+11	113,231	+2	18,054	-4	105,757	+13
East North Central	65,181	+22	425,489	+15	74,118	+20	428,086	+19
West North Central	15,511	-1	114,598	+5	17,709	-1	113,695	+4
South Atlantic	13,055	+29	85,404	+26	13,185	+37	86,254	+28
E. & W. South Central	17,534	-1	142,265	+6	20,803	+4	136,335	+11
Mountain	3,635	-4	23,945	+5	3,591	-1	22,750	-5
Pacific	20,106	+1	154,979	+17	23,127	+6	157,929	+24

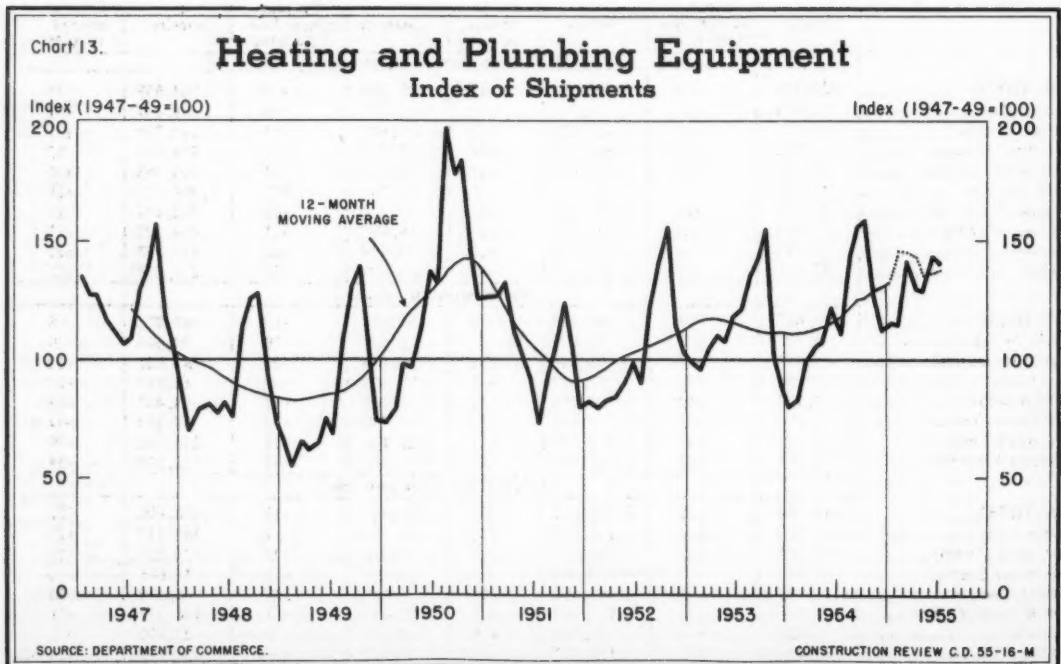
Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. ¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

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Table 34.--Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks

Period	Gas water heaters (Thousands of units)		C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousand square feet)		Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units)		Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units)		Residential oil burners ¹ (Thousands of units)
	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	
1947-49 average	1,818	67	50,980	4,377	794	69	552	44	541
Year: 1952	1,996	74	36,898	3,859	928	106	548	59	505
1953	2,274	128	31,667	4,650	997	148	552	108	541
1954	2,236	103	28,386	5,434	1,132	130	550	74	494
12 months ending:									
April 1955	2,419	--	28,531	--	1,221	--	582	--	531
May 1955	2,444	--	28,518	--	1,239	--	587	--	538
June 1955	2,456	--	28,518	--	1,261	--	585	--	534
July 1955	2,476	--	28,525	--	1,277	--	582	--	538
1954: July	187	85	1,937	7,438	92	166	41	91	40
August	203	90	3,315	6,765	130	153	58	92	56
September	201	87	3,217	6,478	148	133	68	75	62
October	198	91	3,354	5,915	138	122	76	63	69
November	176	95	2,700	5,400	108	121	60	59	42
December	163	103	1,956	5,434	81	130	45	74	29
1955: January	200	97	1,675	5,876	85	137	39	76	39
February	215	94	1,970	6,106	80	145	38	81	39
March	249	103	2,419	6,416	87	176	41	81	39
April	232	94	2,035	6,991	92	189	40	82	39
May	217	123	1,732	7,898	100	200	39	83	40
June	215	111	2,208	7,903	117	213	39	85	41
July	207	91	*1,944	(2)	108	194	38	87	44
Percent change									
July, 1954-55	+11	+7	(3)	--	+17	+17	- 7	-4	+10
First 7 mos., 1954-55	+19	--	+1	--	+27	--	+12	--	+18

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. *Estimated. ¹ Sold separately. ² Not yet available. ³ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.



Part VII--Employment

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Table 35.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

Period	All contractors	Building contractors							Nonbuilding contractors		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (in thousands)											
Year: 1948.....	2,169.0	1,753.0	807.0	946.0	238.2	124.9	123.2	459.8	416.0	172.1	243.8
1949.....	2,165.0	1,736.0	779.0	957.0	241.7	123.4	122.1	469.5	428.0	178.1	250.3
1950.....	2,333.0	1,885.0	844.0	1,041.0	263.1	130.8	123.4	524.0	448.0	183.0	265.2
1951.....	2,603.0	2,109.0	957.6	1,151.7	286.9	155.7	140.5	568.7	493.0	201.3	291.9
1952.....	2,634.0	2,119.0	948.3	1,170.8	287.7	156.5	155.7	570.9	514.0	209.4	305.0
1953.....	2,622.0	2,109.0	934.0	1,175.1	288.9	148.1	159.7	578.4	513.0	214.9	297.8
1954.....	2,527.0	2,021.0	848.8	1,172.7	283.4	141.4	156.5	591.5	506.0	217.4	288.2
1954: July	2,686.0	2,113.0	899.8	1,213.3	286.3	154.6	159.9	612.5	573.0	264.1	308.8
Aug.	2,735.0	2,151.0	915.2	1,236.2	293.1	160.2	158.6	624.3	584.0	268.4	315.5
Sept.	2,698.0	2,129.0	897.6	1,231.1	291.4	157.0	155.0	627.7	569.0	262.1	306.9
Oct.	2,652.0	2,099.0	877.2	1,221.9	291.1	148.4	155.5	626.9	553.0	252.6	300.7
Nov.	2,598.0	2,074.0	862.6	1,211.7	288.1	144.2	155.4	624.0	524.0	231.2	292.6
Dec.	2,426.0	1,975.0	801.9	1,173.4	283.1	135.5	153.7	601.1	451.0	186.0	265.2
1955: Jan.	2,237.0	1,839.0	733.3	1,106.1	270.6	121.6	148.5	565.4	398.0	152.6	244.9
Feb.	2,169.0	1,780.0	694.6	1,085.6	264.7	121.7	144.6	554.6	389.0	147.4	241.2
Mar.	2,255.0	1,844.0	723.9	1,119.9	266.3	129.2	143.6	580.8	411.0	161.9	249.0
Apr.	2,399.0	1,935.0	759.8	1,174.8	272.5	140.2	143.8	618.3	464.0	196.4	267.3
May	2,526.0	2,013.0	789.9	1,222.8	279.3	147.8	145.6	650.1	513.0	234.7	278.6
June	2,615.0	2,067.0	819.7	1,247.2	284.0	153.5	148.5	661.2	548.0	262.3	286.1
July	2,701.0	2,134.0	858.7	1,275.7	288.5	161.0	150.0	676.2	567.0	272.4	294.1
Percent change											
June-July 1955..	+3.3	+3.2	+4.8	+2.3	+1.6	+4.9	+1.0	+2.3	+3.5	+3.9	+2.8
July, 1954-55 ...	+ .6	+1.0	-4.6	+5.1	+ .8	+4.1	-6.2	+10.4	-1.0	+3.1	-4.8

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 36.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted), and Indexes of Weekly Man-Hours

(1947-49 = 100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT (seasonally adjusted) ¹													
1948	100.8	95.8	98.2	100.1	101.6	103.9	104.6	105.2	105.6	106.0	106.9	107.0	103.1
1949	105.7	103.2	102.0	101.2	101.0	101.3	102.6	103.5	104.5	104.2	104.1	101.8	102.9
1950	100.8	99.9	100.1	103.3	106.3	111.1	114.4	116.5	117.6	119.0	119.7	117.5	110.9
1951	120.1	119.9	122.2	123.3	123.4	124.3	125.2	125.6	125.1	126.2	123.9	124.6	123.8
1952	123.6	124.8	123.1	123.0	123.5	125.8	126.4	127.1	127.5	125.9	126.0	125.2	125.2
1953	124.4	124.7	124.7	124.0	123.5	123.4	124.1	124.5	125.8	126.2	125.2	124.1	124.6
1954	119.0	120.7	122.1	121.3	120.8	120.1	120.4	120.3	119.8	118.9	119.8	117.6	120.0
1955	116.8	114.5	117.7	118.7	120.0	119.4	121.0						
INDEXES OF WEEKLY MAN-HOURS													
1948	89.6	81.3	86.7	95.0	102.2	111.9	115.1	117.3	116.2	113.3	106.6	105.4	103.4
1949	94.2	88.9	89.2	95.0	103.1	106.8	110.5	114.2	111.5	111.4	104.4	94.9	102.0
1950	84.6	79.5	83.7	95.8	106.1	116.7	122.1	129.5	126.1	128.9	123.9	112.7	109.1
1951	106.4	99.3	105.4	116.9	126.4	131.8	137.7	141.1	138.5	139.8	124.2	121.6	124.1
1952	111.1	112.3	108.3	117.5	125.4	136.8	138.9	143.2	144.0	139.9	128.2	123.9	127.5
1953	109.1	108.7	109.1	115.8	122.6	130.4	132.0	137.2	131.7	136.7	126.7	117.2	123.1
1954	95.5	102.8	106.4	112.1	118.2	124.6	127.5	129.8	123.8	123.5	118.2	108.9	115.9
1955	96.0	92.4	100.6	106.1	117.2	122.3	128.7						

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the Federal Reserve Board.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 37.--Contract Construction: Employment, by State

State	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, July 1954-55
	1954	1955							1952	1953	1954	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	July	July	July	
Alabama	31.6	29.2	29.9	31.1	31.7	32.9	33.2	33.7	41.5	35.7	32.5	+ 4
Arizona	16.0	15.1	15.9	15.9	16.0	16.4	16.1	16.2	15.6	16.7	15.8	+ 3
Arkansas	15.6	16.5	17.3	17.6	18.0	18.7	19.4	19.8	27.2	20.3	16.7	+19
California	258.1	243.9	249.6	255.4	262.5	268.3	277.7	282.0	252.9	253.3	255.6	+10
Colorado	23.8	22.2	21.1	22.1	24.1	25.6	27.6	27.0	30.8	28.6	20.0	+35
Connecticut ¹	40.9	38.2	36.3	37.6	41.4	45.5	48.0	49.5	45.7	43.5	42.5	+16
Delaware ²	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia ..	18.0	17.0	16.6	17.1	18.2	18.7	18.3	18.0	19.4	19.5	17.9	+ 1
Florida	82.9	78.7	77.8	78.4	79.2	79.7	81.2	84.4	73.8	79.5	82.5	+ 2
Georgia	49.2	49.7	50.1	52.3	52.6	54.5	56.9	57.3	50.8	54.7	45.6	+26
Idaho ³	7.6	5.6	5.5	6.3	7.4	8.5	10.0	10.4	11.3	10.3	10.4	0
Illinois	159.8	146.1	139.6	145.5	154.7	167.7	171.8	175.2	178.1	180.7	177.5	- 1
Indiana	59.8	56.3	54.0	57.9	63.2	66.9	72.6	76.8	70.1	68.2	63.9	+20
Iowa	30.2	25.4	23.8	25.9	29.6	33.3	37.5	38.5	36.8	38.3	35.5	+ 8
Kansas	35.5	32.5	31.0	35.8	39.1	39.5	42.0	44.0	40.1	35.2	41.8	+ 5
Kentucky ²	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Louisiana	49.4	44.0	44.3	45.3	45.5	45.8	47.2	47.4	58.2	60.9	55.9	-15
Maine	12.7	10.7	9.9	9.7	11.4	14.6	15.3	15.8	13.4	13.8	14.9	+ 6
Maryland	56.3	53.6	51.6	55.9	59.5	62.4	63.4	65.6	65.0	64.3	62.9	+ 4
Massachusetts	73.8	66.5	61.9	66.4	73.9	79.4	83.6	86.7	78.8	79.3	75.8	+14
Michigan	111.4	101.6	96.6	95.1	100.1	106.2	108.1	106.8	119.0	114.5	121.0	-12
Minnesota	50.3	45.2	42.7	42.9	49.2	58.6	65.3	67.9	55.6	56.3	57.7	+18
Mississippi	15.5	16.2	15.9	16.8	17.2	19.1	19.0	18.9	21.2	20.6	17.0	+11
Missouri	65.2	60.1	60.6	65.7	67.6	68.3	71.2	76.3	68.2	53.4	71.9	+ 6
Montana	8.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	7.5	10.1	10.7	11.7	13.6	11.1	12.5	- 6
Nebraska	18.8	15.8	15.7	16.9	19.7	23.0	23.8	25.5	21.3	23.7	23.6	+ 8
Nevada	8.1	7.8	8.3	8.5	9.4	9.7	10.0	11.3	7.8	8.8	9.0	+26
New Hampshire	7.8	6.4	6.1	6.7	8.2	8.9	9.6	10.5	8.5	7.7	8.4	+25
New Jersey	94.9	86.5	80.1	86.6	94.0	101.9	104.4	109.2	100.2	98.6	99.2	+10
New Mexico	14.0	13.1	13.1	13.9	14.8	15.5	16.1	16.3	14.3	15.5	14.7	+11
New York	220.8	202.9	194.6	203.1	217.7	232.9	240.0	248.0	233.1	225.6	251.1	- 1
North Carolina	45.3	43.5	42.5	44.4 ⁴	44.8	47.3	48.7	48.3	59.9	56.4	49.5	- 2
North Dakota	8.4	6.3	5.9	6.0	8.2	11.0	12.4	12.8	12.0	11.9	13.9	- 8
Ohio	143.4	130.0	122.1	127.4	136.9	145.3	154.3	163.3	158.2	163.5	163.4	(4)
Oklahoma	29.8	27.5	28.2	29.5	31.2	30.9	32.4	33.5	33.6	33.8	33.6	(4)
Oregon	20.9	19.2	18.5	19.4	20.6	24.1	24.4	28.2	28.2	28.2	24.6	+15
Pennsylvania	170.4	156.1	147.1	158.8	175.1	189.1	196.5	203.3	192.2	193.7	190.4	+ 7
Rhode Island	16.5	15.0	14.6	15.7	17.0	17.2	17.5	17.9	18.5	15.4	15.6	+15
South Carolina	34.7	33.6	34.2	34.2	35.6	36.4	37.9	38.7	63.7	51.9	40.8	- 5
South Dakota	7.4	6.4	6.1	7.3	9.1	10.8	11.3	(2)	11.0	11.1	10.9	--
Tennessee	56.4	52.4	51.0	52.2	53.1	54.5	55.4	55.6	54.4	57.3	57.8	- 4
Texas	151.1	148.6	155.6	162.4	162.7	164.2	169.1	170.2	180.0	169.7	152.9	+11
Utah	12.2	9.7	9.6	11.0	12.8	14.3	15.8	16.2	14.0	13.1	13.4	+21
Vermont	4.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.6	4.5	5.0	5.5	4.1	4.8	5.1	+ 8
Virginia	56.7	55.0	55.0	57.1	59.3	60.1	61.2	62.1	69.7	65.2	60.0	+ 4
Washington	44.4	41.2	39.3	41.1	44.7	47.3	49.5	51.6	50.5	51.8	52.1	- 1
West Virginia	14.7	14.3	13.7	15.2	16.2	17.2	19.5	21.2	19.3	24.0	21.5	- 1
Wisconsin	52.2	48.1	45.9	47.3	50.8	56.2	60.4	63.5	58.3	58.2	56.9	+12
Wyoming	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	6.0	6.8	7.0	8.3	7.5	7.3	- 4

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes a small number of employees in mining. ² Not available. ³ Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data. ⁴ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 38. Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, July 1954-55
	1954	1955							1952	1953	1954	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	July	July	July	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y. ..	6.6	5.5	4.9	4.8	5.4	6.3	6.8	(1)	7.6	7.9	8.3	--
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	5.1	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.7	6.2	6.5	4.6	5.3	4.9	+33
Atlanta, Ga.	18.1	17.5	17.5	18.0	18.3	19.4	20.5	20.7	16.6	16.3	13.0	+59
Baltimore, Md.	35.1	33.6	31.9	34.4	36.3	38.0	38.1	39.5	37.7	39.8	39.2	+1
Baton Rouge, La.	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.7	(1)	(1)	6.2	-8
Binghamton, N. Y.	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	(1)	3.3	3.5	3.4	--
Birmingham, Ala.	11.1	10.7	11.1	11.3	11.8	12.7	13.6	13.9	11.6	11.6	11.4	+22
Boise, Idaho	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.4	1.7	-6
Boston, Mass.	39.9	36.4	33.4	36.7	41.5	44.9	47.6	51.2	45.9	47.1	41.2	+24
Bridgeport, Conn. ²	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.6	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.6	+9
Buffalo, N. Y.	17.0	15.1	13.7	13.6	15.7	17.5	18.5	20.0	19.6	21.0	21.3	-6
Casper, Wyo. ....	.9	.8	.9	.8	.9	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	0
Charleston, S. C.	3.2	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.6	3.8	+3
Charleston, W. Va.	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.5	6.3	5.9	4.5	0
Charlotte, N. C.	5.4	5.1	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.3	6.8	6.2	6.5	-18
Chattanooga, Tenn.	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.9	3.9	5.5	4.6	+7
Chicago, Ill.	104.0	97.8	94.8	99.6	104.8	110.9	113.1	115.5	105.9	117.5	116.4	(3)
Denver, Colo.	14.7	13.7	13.0	13.4	14.4	15.4	16.1	15.7	19.2	17.8	11.9	+32
Des Moines, Iowa	5.3	4.4	4.3	5.1	5.5	6.0	6.6	6.5	4.1	4.6	6.4	+2
Detroit, Mich.	67.5	61.7	59.4	56.9	60.0	62.4	63.1	61.0	(1)	63.4	70.5	-13
Duluth, Minn.	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4	+17
Fargo, N. D.	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.2	(1)	2.1	2.2	0
Fort Wayne, Ind.	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.1	4.2	3.8	3.3	-6
Great Falls, Mont.	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	(1)	1.6	1.8	+6
Harrisburg, Pa.	7.2	6.4	6.0	6.9	7.7	7.8	8.4	8.4	8.0	6.8	8.0	+5
Hartford, Conn. ²	8.8	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.9	9.3	9.7	9.9	9.8	9.5	9.6	+3
Indianapolis, Ind.	8.4	8.2	8.0	8.6	8.8	9.5	10.3	10.4	12.7	11.4	10.3	+1
Jacksonville, Fla.	9.2	8.9	9.3	9.0	8.8	8.7	8.1	8.7	9.6	7.2	9.1	-4
Kansas City, Mo.	18.9	18.6	18.4	19.0	19.4	18.7	19.4	(1)	21.7	6.1	20.6	--
Knoxville, Tenn.	13.8	12.5	11.5	11.0	10.4	10.4	10.0	8.8	6.8	12.7	4.1	+115
Lewiston, Maine	1.2	1.0	.9	.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	+8
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark.	5.2	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.5	7.1	5.2	5.5	5.1	+39
Los Angeles, Calif.	123.0	116.8	120.4	123.3	125.4	126.2	128.6	129.4	106.5	122.8	117.3	+10
Manchester, N. H.	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.6	+25
Memphis, Tenn.	9.9	9.0	9.0	9.9	10.1	10.7	11.9	11.9	12.1	10.6	9.8	+21
Miami, Fla.	24.5	23.2	22.9	23.6	23.6	22.9	23.9	25.0	16.8	18.6	20.6	+21
Milwaukee, Wis.	19.5	18.3	17.4	18.2	19.6	20.9	21.8	22.8	(1)	(1)	19.6	+16
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	28.5	25.2	24.3	25.2	30.1	35.2	37.9	38.9	32.0	31.5	31.6	+23
Mobile, Ala.	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.0	(1)	5.3	1.0	+300
Nashville, Tenn. ²	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.5	7.9	8.2	(1)	9.3	7.8	+5
Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N.Y.	27.3	25.1	23.2	26.1	28.2	29.4	30.2	(1)	(1)	25.5	30.1	--
Newark-Jersey City, N.J.	28.6	25.5	24.4	26.4	28.7	32.2	33.2	33.7	(1)	30.8	29.3	+15
New Bedford, Mass.	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	+27
New Britain, Conn. ²	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	0
New Haven, Conn. ²	5.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.4	5.9	6.2	+2
New Orleans, La.	20.2	19.9	19.5	20.1	20.1	20.3	20.8	21.0	20.4	19.8	22.6	-7
New York City, N. Y.	99.7	95.2	95.7	99.3	101.9	107.0	109.4	110.7	103.9	95.2	109.8	+1
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	11.0	11.0	10.9	11.2	11.5	11.4	12.0	12.2	12.8	13.5	12.1	+1
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8.1	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.6	8.8	9.3	9.3	10.3	9.4	9.2	+1
Omaha, Nebr.	7.8	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.3	8.3	7.3	8.7	8.5	9.2	9.5	-8
Phoenix, Ariz.	9.1	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.3	8.4	7.1	8.1	7.9	+6
Pittsburgh, Pa.	38.4	35.1	33.5	35.9	40.8	42.4	43.8	44.9	(1)	42.2	38.4	+17
Portland, Maine	3.8	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	4.0	3.3	4.3	3.8	+5
Portland, Ore.	12.4	11.5	11.2	11.7	12.2	14.0	13.1	15.0	15.4	15.1	13.1	+15
Providence, R. I.	14.6	13.3	13.0	13.9	15.0	15.3	15.5	15.7	16.4	13.7	13.8	+14
Racine, Wis.	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	(1)	(1)	2.0	0
Reno, Nev.	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.3	1.8	1.7	2.2	+5
Richmond, Va.	9.2	9.0	8.9	9.1	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.4	12.0	11.4	10.0	+4
Rochester, N. Y.	8.8	8.2	7.9	8.0	8.8	8.9	8.2	(1)	8.8	9.2	10.4	--
St. Louis, Mo.	39.5	36.0	34.2	36.9	37.4	37.1	37.5	38.6	(1)	(1)	44.2	-13

See footnotes at end of table.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 38.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas--Continued

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, July 1954-55
	1954	1955							1952	1953	1954	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	July	July	July	
Salt Lake City, Utah.....	7.7	6.3	6.4	7.2	7.6	7.7	8.3	8.6	8.0	7.3	7.7	+12
San Diego, Calif.	12.3	12.2	12.4	12.6	12.8	12.9	12.3	13.1	13.5	14.3	11.9	+10
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	58.7	54.9	53.4	53.4	55.8	57.8	61.2	63.1	63.6	54.8	57.7	+ 9
Savannah, Ga.	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1	4.2	4.5	3.0	+ 3
Seattle, Wash.	12.7	12.3	12.5	13.6	14.4	15.0	15.1	15.3	13.2	13.9	13.7	+12
Spokane, Wash.	3.9	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.9	3.9	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.6	5.1	- 4
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	5.0	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.4	5.9	5.8	4.7	5.5	+ 7
Stamford, Conn. ²	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	+ 6
Syracuse, N. Y.	6.2	5.0	4.8	5.4	6.0	6.7	7.7	(1)	7.5	7.7	7.7	--
Tacoma, Wash.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.8	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.0	+25
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	12.9	12.9	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.9	13.1	13.0	12.8	12.6	+ 4
Topeka, Kans.	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.7	4.6	3.1	2.6	+42
Tucson, Ariz.	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.4	4.8	4.0	3.0	+13
Tulsa, Okla.	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.7	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	8.1	7.4	+ 4
Utica-Rome, N. Y.	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	(1)	3.5	3.8	3.7	--
Washington, D. C.	38.1	36.5	35.9	37.0	39.0	39.8	39.8	39.8	41.8	40.8	38.6	+ 3
Waterbury, Conn. ²	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	+ 5
Westchester Co., N.Y.	15.0	13.6	12.4	13.4	15.0	15.7	16.5	(1)	(1)	(1)	16.3	--
Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va.	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.7	4.2	4.4	4.0	+18
Wichita, Kans.	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.0	7.6	7.1	+ 6
Worcester, Mass.	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.9	4.1	4.1	3.6	-19

Source: Department of Labor.
half of 1 percent.

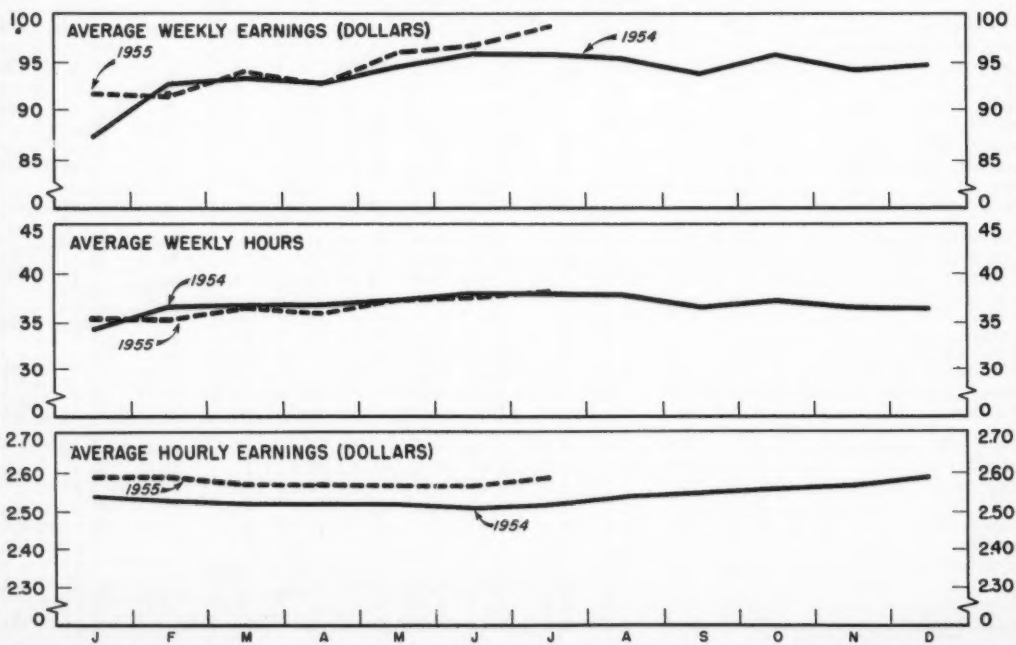
¹ Not available.

² Includes a small number of employees in mining.

³ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Chart 14.

Hours and Earnings of Workers In Contract Construction



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Table 39.--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers

Period	All construction	Building construction							Nonbuilding construction		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953.....	\$91.61	\$91.76	\$87.75	\$94.79	\$98.30	\$87.10	\$111.61	\$91.04	\$90.27	\$85.28	\$93.85
1954.....	93.98	94.12	89.41	98.01	102.71	90.39	112.71	93.19	92.86	86.88	97.36
1954: July.....	96.01	95.20	89.55	99.43	103.14	92.39	112.40	96.15	97.71	95.26	99.39
August.....	96.52	96.20	91.51	99.53	103.52	92.31	113.88	96.10	97.21	93.09	100.77
September.....	93.84	94.32	89.00	98.10	102.92	92.57	110.08	94.08	92.97	88.75	96.33
October.....	95.74	96.26	91.62	99.46	103.63	92.75	115.05	94.87	94.13	86.62	100.53
November.....	94.32	94.15	89.61	97.02	100.10	90.37	112.18	93.30	94.30	88.94	98.55
December.....	94.28	95.40	90.83	98.28	107.20	91.12	113.30	91.77	89.47	80.51	96.08
1955: January.....	91.69	93.02	88.55	96.10	105.64	86.72	113.00	88.78	85.01	76.70	90.16
February.....	91.43	91.96	85.59	95.55	103.40	90.05	111.25	89.24	88.31	78.79	94.11
March.....	94.06	94.42	89.14	97.92	103.40	92.38	113.10	93.37	91.48	83.21	97.22
April.....	92.52	93.10	87.40	97.10	103.22	90.25	112.81	92.92	89.39	81.92	95.37
May.....	96.12	96.52	90.27	100.74	105.26	94.87	114.17	97.55	94.07	90.03	97.86
June.....	96.89	96.89	90.14	101.65	105.64	95.39	115.35	98.36	96.41	93.93	98.55
July.....	98.94	98.32	91.63	103.60	106.96	96.83	116.52	100.91	99.59	97.44	101.84
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS											
Year: 1953.....	37.7	37.0	37.5	36.6	38.1	34.7	39.3	35.7	40.3	41.2	39.6
1954.....	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.3	37.9	34.5	38.6	35.3	40.2	40.6	39.9
1954: July.....	38.1	36.9	36.7	37.1	38.2	35.4	38.1	36.7	42.3	43.9	40.9
August.....	38.0	37.0	36.9	37.0	38.2	35.1	39.0	36.4	41.9	42.7	41.3
September.....	36.8	36.0	35.6	36.2	37.7	34.8	37.7	35.5	39.9	40.9	39.0
October.....	37.4	36.6	36.5	36.7	38.1	35.0	39.0	35.8	40.4	40.1	40.7
November.....	36.7	35.8	35.7	35.8	36.8	34.1	37.9	35.3	40.3	40.8	39.9
December.....	36.4	36.0	35.9	36.0	38.7	34.0	38.8	34.5	38.4	37.8	38.9
1955: January.....	35.4	35.1	35.0	35.2	38.0	32.6	38.7	33.5	36.8	36.7	36.8
February.....	35.3	34.7	34.1	35.0	37.6	33.6	38.1	33.3	37.9	37.7	38.1
March.....	36.6	35.9	35.8	36.0	37.6	34.6	38.6	35.1	39.6	40.2	39.2
April.....	36.0	35.4	35.1	35.7	37.4	33.8	38.5	34.8	38.2	38.1	38.3
May.....	37.4	36.7	36.4	36.9	38.0	35.4	38.7	36.4	40.2	41.3	39.3
June.....	37.7	36.7	36.2	37.1	38.0	35.2	39.1	36.7	41.2	42.5	39.9
July.....	38.2	37.1	36.8	37.4	38.2	35.6	39.1	37.1	42.2	43.5	40.9
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953.....	2.43	2.48	2.34	2.59	2.58	2.51	2.48	2.55	2.24	2.07	2.37
1954.....	2.54	2.60	2.47	2.70	2.71	2.62	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.14	2.44
1954: July.....	2.52	2.58	2.44	2.68	2.70	2.61	2.95	2.62	2.31	2.17	2.43
August.....	2.54	2.60	2.48	2.69	2.71	2.63	2.92	2.64	2.32	2.18	2.44
September.....	2.55	2.62	2.50	2.71	2.73	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.33	2.17	2.47
October.....	2.56	2.63	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.95	2.65	2.33	2.16	2.47
November.....	2.57	2.63	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.96	2.66	2.34	2.18	2.47
December.....	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.92	2.66	2.33	2.13	2.47
1955: January.....	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.78	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.31	2.09	2.45
February.....	2.59	2.65	2.51	2.73	2.75	2.68	2.92	2.68	2.33	2.09	2.47
March.....	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.75	2.67	2.93	2.66	2.31	2.07	2.48
April.....	2.57	2.63	2.47	2.72	2.76	2.67	2.93	2.67	2.34	2.15	2.49
May.....	2.57	2.63	2.48	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.18	2.49
June.....	2.57	2.64	2.49	2.74	2.78	2.71	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.21	2.47
July.....	2.59	2.65	2.49	2.77	2.80	2.72	2.98	2.72	2.36	2.24	2.49
Percent change, July 1954 to 1955											
Avg. wkly. earnings ..	+3.1	+3.3	+2.3	+4.2	+3.7	+4.8	+3.7	+5.0	+1.9	+2.3	+2.5
Avg. wkly. hours.....	+ .3	+ .5	+ .3	+ .8	0	+ .6	+2.6	+1.1	- .2	- .9	0
Avg. hly. earnings....	+2.8	+2.7	+2.0	+3.4	+3.7	+4.2	+1.0	+3.8	+2.2	+3.2	+2.5

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 40.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade

State and territory	Number of apprentices registered and active at end of 2d quar. ¹		
	1953	1954	1955
Total ²	88,638	85,419	93,050
Alabama	1,556	1,327	1,128
Alaska	93	173	247
Arizona	903	964	1,145
Arkansas	491	524	511
California	11,528	10,774	11,946
Colorado	996	918	1,158
Connecticut	2,067	2,117	2,239
Delaware	137	157	205
District of Columbia	1,157	1,190	1,212
Florida	2,369	2,365	2,615
Georgia	2,519	2,003	1,987
Hawaii	285	302	283
Idaho	272	255	272
Illinois	6,011	6,092	7,356
Indiana	1,364	1,353	1,540
Iowa	888	938	933
Kansas	455	502	714
Kentucky	1,247	1,196	1,200
Louisiana	1,629	1,714	1,661
Maine	121	170	245
Maryland	1,281	1,344	1,244
Massachusetts	2,311	2,191	2,406
Michigan	3,254	3,660	4,571
Minnesota	2,304	2,322	2,449
Mississippi	470	401	366
Missouri	1,901	1,971	2,423
Montana	432	482	508
Nebraska	509	506	532
Nevada	194	209	298
New Hampshire	93	95	117
New Jersey	2,117	1,941	2,092
New Mexico	527	404	530
New York	(3)	(3)	(3)
North Carolina	1,757	1,610	1,637
North Dakota	49	47	100
Ohio	6,148	6,422	7,083
Oklahoma	833	746	675
Oregon	795	782	942
Pennsylvania	3,258	3,578	3,706
Rhode Island	339	391	482
South Carolina	942	919	666
South Dakota	110	107	170
Tennessee	2,328	1,915	1,867
Texas	4,364	3,849	4,312
Utah	604	618	633
Vermont	115	96	90
Virginia	1,504	1,234	1,238
Washington	1,986	1,765	2,187
West Virginia	443	486	461
Wisconsin	2,112	2,117	2,273
Wyoming	245	204	219

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 40.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade--Continued

State and territory	Number of apprentices registered and active at end of 2d quarter, selected trades											
	1954						1955					
	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paper-hanger	Plumber and pipe-fitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades ⁴	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paper-hanger	Plumber and pipe-fitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades ⁴
Total ²	21,404	15,577	3,546	18,504	8,964	11,089	23,750	16,184	4,190	20,483	9,877	11,256
Alabama.....	406	210	77	232	115	130	377	173	66	185	127	85
Alaska.....	68	34	1	48	6	0	109	32	12	57	8	0
Arizona.....	334	232	84	120	84	59	428	270	86	145	84	71
Arkansas.....	122	67	32	76	14	28	95	57	43	98	30	35
California.....	3,986	1,246	619	2,135	1,185	675	4,442	1,248	879	2,317	1,341	768
Colorado.....	151	108	33	174	192	118	248	136	41	207	210	129
Connecticut.....	614	205	141	501	269	229	633	255	161	498	240	204
Delaware.....	38	24	19	31	21	20	40	28	20	47	29	34
Dist. of Col.	222	208	32	248	82	199	175	214	45	277	80	217
Florida.....	604	846	36	380	182	229	687	856	45	383	231	234
Georgia.....	315	637	45	348	186	170	295	677	32	371	190	170
Hawaii.....	38	95	22	80	40	15	71	84	6	64	48	3
Idaho.....	74	68	9	42	37	18	72	59	17	45	38	26
Illinois.....	1,093	1,286	300	1,314	513	1,375	1,389	1,339	347	1,794	612	1,442
Indiana.....	211	266	72	219	219	341	324	213	86	272	236	321
Iowa.....	269	118	56	216	117	100	278	114	53	207	122	94
Kansas.....	143	85	12	91	65	77	216	78	46	122	78	132
Kentucky.....	280	276	33	338	126	119	267	318	43	336	118	95
Louisiana.....	414	365	45	384	119	207	395	380	52	325	120	201
Maine.....	13	70	0	49	10	12	20	67	1	75	46	12
Maryland.....	292	339	41	310	78	243	231	271	44	301	87	269
Massachusetts ..	374	429	43	608	226	289	439	435	67	686	245	263
Michigan.....	893	579	95	681	493	556	1,208	639	190	800	657	648
Minnesota.....	443	515	160	531	333	232	513	510	140	532	340	246
Mississippi.....	128	118	0	86	29	27	92	99	0	93	30	28
Missouri.....	586	228	126	363	287	255	714	311	146	435	370	277
Montana.....	211	78	42	75	47	19	212	86	37	93	49	19
Nebraska.....	128	79	26	88	62	37	141	94	21	92	69	75
Nevada.....	58	96	3	38	10	0	93	103	14	35	48	0
New Hampshire..	28	2	0	57	0	2	46	3	0	58	0	0
New Jersey.....	612	177	23	405	270	360	620	252	23	502	239	332
New Mexico.....	89	153	26	55	18	14	149	185	31	62	30	15
New York.....	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
North Carolina .	268	479	46	343	172	214	288	465	41	338	209	203
North Dakota.....	8	0	0	19	0	20	24	20	0	34	0	20
Ohio.....	1,303	965	209	1,632	774	1,057	1,407	1,044	233	1,934	808	1,008
Oklahoma.....	195	109	26	127	107	67	168	76	15	105	95	54
Oregon.....	163	215	50	126	145	40	183	250	54	156	170	56
Pennsylvania ...	923	467	56	1,145	267	470	795	552	60	1,312	295	481
Rhode Island.....	150	50	18	100	33	31	179	59	20	154	36	23
South Carolina .	107	328	9	261	45	134	92	190	5	189	57	113
South Dakota.....	31	19	7	24	12	4	60	18	13	41	13	10
Tennessee.....	556	501	93	292	134	175	548	489	79	328	132	151
Texas.....	817	822	220	927	287	381	1,011	869	291	1,052	344	374
Utah.....	227	65	51	85	84	59	232	74	49	102	95	33
Vermont.....	26	7	0	45	5	2	27	10	1	42	5	2
Virginia.....	166	336	52	301	148	119	155	339	43	301	170	128
Washington.....	687	294	118	234	162	100	852	318	119	310	165	165
West Virginia ...	89	103	15	143	59	27	86	89	17	135	63	23
Wisconsin.....	452	307	138	662	258	228	468	322	173	709	262	258
Wyoming.....	84	29	6	30	32	19	93	30	5	36	31	19

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Includes data for trades not shown separately.² Includes an estimate for New York.³ Data not available.⁴ Covers brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and plasterers.

Construction Regulations

Savings and Loan Associations Asked to Curb Mortgage Lending. (Federal Home Loan Bank Board press release issued September 13, 1955.)

On September 13, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board announced it had requested its 11 district banks to advise the nearly 4,300 member savings and loan associations to limit their mortgage lending activities so that future loan demands would be met out of savings deposits and loan repayments, rather than by borrowing from the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

The district Home Loan Banks (which have somewhat the same relationship to savings and loan associations as Federal Reserve Banks have to commercial banks) will continue to make credit advances to member institutions when funds are needed (1) to meet unusual withdrawal demands (which is the primary function of the System) and (2) for extending financial assistance to persons whose property was damaged by the recent floods. In addition, when absolutely necessary, an advance may be made for purposes of meeting previous mortgage commitments, provided the member institution has made every effort to comply with the new restrictions.

The Board announced that the restrictive action on lending operations was in line with the national policy of curbing inflationary tendencies observable at this time. It was taken because current trends in advances and deposits, together with the large volume of building, have resulted in an unprecedented rate of borrowing from the Federal Home Loan Bank System to expand housing credit. During the first 7 months of this year, mortgage lending by member associations totaled nearly \$6.6 billion, about 42 percent above the 1954 figure for those months. On the other hand, the net inflow of savings deposited during January-July 1955 (\$2.7 billion) was only about 11 percent greater than a year earlier. As of the end of August 1955, Home Loan Bank advances outstanding to member savings and loan associations amounted to \$1,187 million, compared with \$659 million at the close of August 1954.

Of the several types of institutions that make loans for home financing, savings and loan associations are the most important. They accounted for 38 percent of all the nonfarm mortgages of \$20,000 or less recorded during the first 7 months of this year. Commercial banks ranked second, with 19 percent of total volume.

Construction Review brings together under one cover virtually all of the Government's current statistics that pertain to construction. Published jointly by the U. S. Department of Commerce and the U. S. Department of Labor, this monthly report is designed to serve the wide variety of groups and individuals among businessmen, government officials, legislators, labor unions, research workers, and the general public who need a convenient reference to the many facets by which current trends in construction may be gaged.

The various measures of construction are shown in detail wherever possible, by type of construction, trade, or material, and in addition, by location. The Index to statistical tables is a guide to the detail provided by each tabulation.

Most of the statistical series shown are prepared separately or jointly by the two agencies responsible for this publication. The remainder, specifically accredited, originate in other governmental agencies or are contributed by private organizations.¹

Almost all the statistics are presented on a monthly basis; the rest, quarterly. Except where noted, all data relate to the continental United States.

DEFINITION OF THE SERIES

Part I--Construction Put in Place. Construction, for the purpose of this series, is defined to include the engineering, design, and production of all fixed works and structures. Only new construction, including major additions and alterations, is covered; maintenance and repair work is excluded. The estimates cover build-

ings; other structures such as dams, levees, and bridges; and nonstructural works such as airfields, highways, canals, and navigation channels. They include the installed value of equipment generally considered an integral part of a structure and commonly included in the contract price, such as plumbing, heating, and air conditioning equipment and elevators. They exclude separable equipment, such as production machinery, power-generating equipment, and furnishings.

Clearing and development of land is included. If, however, an existing structure is demolished in the process, the demolition itself is excluded. Excluded also are oil, gas, and water well drilling; the digging and shoring of mines; and work which is an integral part of farming operations such as plowing, terracing, and the digging of drainage ditches.

Value of construction includes the cost of architectural and engineering fees, land development costs, material and equipment installed, labor, overhead, and profit on construction operations, but not speculative profits. Also included are the value of force-account work (construction done, not through a contractor, but directly by a business or government agency using a separate work force to perform nonmaintenance construction on the agency's own properties), as well as the value of work done by owners or their families on their own homes, farm buildings, and the like.

Estimates of the value of construction measure the value of work put in place on all structures and facilities under construction during a given period regardless of when work on each individual project was started.

¹The private contributors are as follows: American Appraisal Co. (525 E. Michigan St., Milwaukee 2, Wis.), Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. (329 E St., N. W., Washington 4, D. C.), E. H. Boeckh and Associates (1406 M St., N. W., Washington 5, D. C.), and the Engineering News-Record (330 W. 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y.), which provide this bulletin with construction cost indexes; the F. W. Dodge Corporation (119 W. 40th St., New York, N. Y.), which provides contract award values for the 37 eastern States; and the following private associations whose materials production, shipments, and other statistics on materials are published here: American Institute of Steel Construction (101 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y.), American Iron and Steel Institute (350 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.), Douglas Fir Plywood Association (Tacoma Bldg., Tacoma 2, Wash.), National Electric Manufacturers Association (155 E. 44th St., New York 17, N. Y.), National Lumber Manufacturers Association (1319 18th St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.), and National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 4, Ill.).

Federally owned construction covers all projects financed exclusively with Federal funds, whether the work is done by force-account or by private contractors. State and locally owned construction, which also covers both force-account and private-contract work, includes projects financed entirely by State and local governments, as well as projects financed in part by the Federal Government under grants-in-aid programs. Thus, the value figures for State and locally owned construction include the funds obtained from all three levels of government--Federal, State, and local. For the most part, the types of projects involving both Federal and State or local government monies are highways, airfields, schools, hospitals, and sewage-disposal and water-supply facilities.

Part II--New Housing. The housing series in this report cover only permanent and housekeeping dwelling units, which are defined as dwelling places containing permanent cooking facilities, or the minimum built-in facilities essential to housekeeping.

The series on the number of new permanent nonfarm dwelling units started, widely known as housing starts, includes prefabricated housing (if permanent), but excludes conversions (which are not new dwelling units) and hotel, dormitory accommodations, and military barracks (none of which are housekeeping dwellings). Excluded also are all temporary dwelling units, such as trailers, sheds, and shacks, as well as all farm housing.

The housing starts estimates are based on local building permits issued (adjusted for canceled permits and for lag between permit issuance and start of construction) and public contracts awarded, plus a field count of units started in a sample of nonpermit-issuing places.

Construction is said to have started when excavation work for the basement or the foundation of the structure has commenced.

This series was revised beginning with data for January 1954. The new series presents statistics for the 4 broad Census regions (Northeast, North Central, South, and West) and for the metropolitan, as compared with the nonmet-

ropolitan segment of the country. Estimates by metropolitan-nonmetropolitan location have been carried back on a monthly basis through January 1953, and on an annual basis through 1950.

These geographic data replace the urban-rural classification used previously. Also, rental-type units in the new series are classified as 2-4 family and 5-or-more family structures, compared with the former classification of 2-family and 3-or-more family structures.

Construction cost data shown here represent the average of builders' estimates of the construction cost of all new private 1-family houses started nationally. The construction cost averages are affected by variations in size and design of the houses, in the size and type of projects started, and differences in construction methods, as well as changes in cost of materials and labor. They do not represent the construction cost of a typical house, and should not be confused with selling price or permit valuation.

The cost data are based primarily on builders' estimates of construction cost as shown on the building permit, and on reports of construction cost by individual construction contractors in a representative group of localities not issuing permits. Building-permit information is adjusted for the general understatement of costs shown on permit applications.

The construction cost figures cover the cost of labor, materials, and subcontracted work, and that part of the builders' overhead and profit chargeable directly to the building of the houses. Included are the costs of equipment which becomes an integral part of the structure and is essential to its general use. Excluded are the costs of land, site improvement, architectural and engineering fees, and sales profits.

While the series on total nonfarm dwelling units started, as well as the series on units started under FHA and VA programs, cover new housing only, as distinguished from converted or existing housing, the statistics on nonfarm mortgage recordings of \$20,000 or less refer to both new and existing structures. Furthermore, the latter series covers all types of building construction, but resi-

dential building accounts for the larger proportion of these mortgage recordings.

Part III--Building Permits. The statistics on building construction authorized by local building permits, beginning with data for January 1954, measure building activity in all localities having building-permit systems--rural nonfarm as well as urban. Such localities (over 7,000) include about 80 percent of the total nonfarm population of the country, according to the 1950 Census.

The building-construction data cover federally as well as nonfederally owned projects. Figures on the amount of construction contracts awarded for Federal projects and for public housing (Federal, State, and local) in permit-issuing places are added to the valuation data (estimated cost entered by builders on building-permit applications) for privately owned projects; construction undertaken by State and local governments is reported by local officials.

No adjustment has been made in the building-permit data to reflect the fact that permit valuations generally understate the actual cost of construction, nor for lapsed permits or the lag between permit issuance or contract-award dates and start of construction. Therefore, they should not be considered as representing the volume of building construction started.

Statistics shown in this report for the total metropolitan area of the country represent the 168 Standard Metropolitan Areas used in the 1950 Census. Data for individual metropolitan areas (which were selected from those for which building-permit coverage is complete or virtually complete) include an estimate for non-permit-issuing places in each area.

Permit valuation figures do not include the costs of (1) demolishing or moving buildings, (2) nonbuilding construction (e.g., streets and highways, pipelines, water and sewer systems, etc.), or (3) land, land development, and architectural and engineering fees.

The builders' estimates of cost as reported on the building permit, basically include the value of labor and materials involved. However, because of differences in requirements, administration,

and enforcement among the many local permit systems covered in this series, and variations in how individuals report, precise information is lacking regarding the extent to which the cost of service facilities essential to the general use of the building, or builders' overhead and profit, are included.

Dwelling units are defined the same for the building-permit series as for the series presented in Part II (New Housing) of this report. The nonhousekeeping residential building shown here is comprised of such structures as hotels, dormitories, tourist cabins, and clubs and association buildings with bedrooms.

Part IV--Contract Awards. The value of contracts awarded represents the amount of the construction contracts let during a given period of time for new construction, including major additions and alterations. Maintenance and repair work is not covered. As in the "construction put in place" series, equipment which becomes an integral part of structures and is essential to their general use is included, as well as costs of land development, materials, labor, and contractors' overhead and profit on construction operations. Similarly, the value of Federal force-account work is also included, but the cost of land and separable equipment are excluded. However, unlike the construction put in place series, the statistics on contracts awarded exclude architectural and engineering fees and non-Federal force-account work, but include a small amount of demolition work when it is part of the overall contract for new construction.

Figures on federally owned projects are compiled from notifications of construction contracts awarded, obtained from other Federal agencies. Data on non-Federal construction are obtained from records compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, for the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains. For the remaining States, they are based on reports from local building-permit officials, augmented by reports on construction contract awards which appear in a number of construction trade periodicals. Inquiries about the Dodge contract-award series may be addressed directly to that company.

Part V--Costs. The Department of Commerce composite construction cost index is a combination of various cost indexes (prepared by private organizations and other government agencies), weighted monthly by the current relative importance of the major classes of construction shown in the series on construction put in place. It is, therefore, the equivalent of a variable weighted indicator, reflecting monthly changes not only in the component indexes, but also in the relative importance of the major classes of construction which are used as weights.

The individual private indexes reported monthly by the American Appraisal Company, Associated General Contractors, E. H. Boeckh and Associates, and the Engineering News-Record are computed from quotations for a designated bill of materials and a specified amount of labor. The indexes differ as to the amounts and kinds of materials and labor measured, geographic coverage, and the extent to which adjustments are made for variations in labor efficiency, overhead and other factors affecting construction costs.

Cost indexes applicable to particular locations and special types of construction may be obtained from most of these compilers.

All materials usually incorporated into buildings by the general contractor, or his subcontractors, are covered in the index of wholesale prices of building materials. Specifically excluded are consumer durable goods such as kitchen ranges, refrigerators, and air-conditioning equipment. Goods of constant quality are priced from period to period, so that the index measures the effect only of price, rather than of quality change. "Wholesale" refers to sales in large lots, at primary market levels.

The series was revised, beginning with the January 1952 index, to include the pricing of additional materials, a different weighting pattern, and a change in the pricing period. The revised index, based on 1947-49=100, is the "official" wholesale price index of the Federal Government for January 1952 and all subsequent months; the indexes previously published on the base 1926=100 are the official price indexes for Decem-

ber 1951 and all earlier dates. The index presented here for the year 1951 on a 1947-49=100 base is taken from a "linked" series, calculated solely for analytical purposes, and does not supersede the former index (1926=100) as the official series for that year.

Union wage scales are the minimum wage rates agreed upon through collective bargaining between employers and trade unions. Overtime beyond the negotiated maximum daily and weekly hours is excluded. In addition, the scales do not reflect either rates for apprentices or premium rates paid for special qualifications or other reasons.

Part VI--Materials. The Indexes of Construction Materials Output provide measures of production or shipments for ten groups of construction materials, and are based on the output of 43 selected materials. Monthly indexes are provided for eight groups of materials, quarterly indexes for the other two groups, and annual levels are given for all groups.

In computing the indexes, the current monthly or quarterly unit production or shipments data are converted to aggregate values by multiplying 1947-49 average prices at the mills, factories, or plants. The base period aggregate values (1947-49 monthly average = 100) are derived by multiplying 1947-49 monthly average output by the 1947 average factory mill, or plant price. By the use of varying physical quantities, and constant prices, the group indexes represent physical quantity measures. The trend lines appearing on the charts are derived from the group indexes by removing the month-to-month fluctuations resulting from seasonal and erratic factors. The lines are 12-month moving averages centered on the seventh month, with each calendar year centered on July. Projections for the last 6 months are made by using the current data adjusted for the seasonal movements appearing during the period 1952-54, and smoothed by a 3-month moving average.

Part VII--Employment. Data on employment in contract construction cover all employees of construction firms who were worked during, or received pay for, the payroll period ending nearest the 15th of the month, regardless of the type of

work performed. Only firms engaged in the construction business on a contract basis for others are included, but such firms pursue all kinds of construction activities--new work, alterations, demolitions, maintenance, and repairs. Excluded are self-employed construction workers, working proprietors, and force-account employees of non-construction firms and public agencies engaged in construction activities.

The hours and earnings estimates relate only to nonsupervisory construction workers and working foremen. All such workers, regardless of skill, are included if they are engaged in any way in contract construction activities (on either privately or publicly owned projects).

The earnings statistics shown are gross earnings before deductions for old-age and unemployment insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues. Gross earnings include the workers' base pay, premium pay for overtime and for bonuses, and pay for sick leave, holidays, and vacations taken, but such items as employer contributions to welfare funds, and to insurance or pension plans, are excluded.

The indexes of weekly man-hours in contract construction are a composite measure of the trends in construction-worker employment and average weekly hours. They provide a more meaningful measure of contract-construction activity than the employment or average weekly hours series alone, since the volume of work done is dependent upon both the number of workers employed and the length of their workweek.

The foregoing employment and earnings series are based upon reports from individual contracting establishments; these reports do not contain the detail necessary to separate employment according to the kind of construction work performed, as reported in the tables on labor requirements for new construction. To yield this information, the figures on the value of new construction (see the tables on new construction put in place) are converted into estimated man-months of work, using a factor representing the value of work put in place per man-hour. This factor relates to different time periods and is based on diverse sources,

according to the type of work. For most types of work, no adjustment is made for productivity. Therefore, although the series provides a suitable general measure of labor requirements, it cannot be used to gage changes in productivity.

The labor requirement figures derived by this method are not employment figures in the same sense as those developed from employment reports. They are, instead, an approximate measurement, in terms of number of full-time workers, of the labor required to put in place the dollar volume of new construction reported for the specified period.

Since the basic data (dollar volume) cover the entire value of the work put in place, all the labor charged to the construction is included--wage and salaried employees, in addition to the working proprietors, self-employed, and employees of operative builders. Furthermore, force-account work, which is excluded from data on employment by construction contractors, is included in the labor requirement series. Also, contractors' employees may work on all kinds of construction work--demolitions, or repair and maintenance projects, as well as new construction--but the figures on labor requirements have been developed for new projects only.

Information shown in this report on apprentices in the building trades applies only to registered apprentices. A registered apprentice is defined as an employee who, under an expressed or implied agreement for a stipulated term, receives instruction in a registered apprenticeship system, and concerning whom a recognized apprenticeship agency has on record all the information it requires.

The apprenticeship data are obtained from local apprenticeship committees, trade unions, employers' associations, and building trades councils, by field representatives of the Federal Government and cooperating State Apprenticeship Agencies. Occupational classifications are based on descriptions in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (Washington, U. S. Employment Service, 2d Ed., 1949). For the purposes of the tabulation presented here, three classifica-

tions--brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and plasterers--have been combined into one group, the trowel trades.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Descriptions of the techniques of compiling most of the series included, as well as related explanatory information and historical statistics are contained in

the following selected group of Government publications. Starred (*) items may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at the prices shown. The remainder listed below are available upon request to the agency responsible for the publications, unless otherwise indicated.

*Business Statistics: A Supplement to the Survey of Current Business. 1953 Biennial Edition. U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics. \$1.00.

Construction and Building Materials, Statistical Supplement, Construction Volume and Costs, May 1954. Field Office of the Department of Commerce, or Sales and Distribution Division, Office of Publications Management, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. 75 cents.

Construction Cost Indexes, BLS Report No. 73, November 1954. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Construction During Five Decades, Historical Statistics, 1915-52. BLS Bulletin No. 1146. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 45 cents.

*Employment and Earnings. Monthly. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Subscription price: \$3.50 domestic; \$4.50 foreign. Single copies vary in price.

*Employment and Earnings. Annual Supplement Issue. May 1955. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Seventh Annual Report-Housing and Home Finance Agency. Calendar Year 1953. Housing and Home Finance Agency. \$1.25.

Housing Statistics. Special Year-end Issue with Annual Statistics. January 1955. Housing and Home Finance Agency, Division of Housing Research, Washington 25, D. C.

New Construction Expenditures, 1915-51: Labor Requirements 1939-51. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Construction Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, BLS Bulletin 1168, U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 60 cents.

Chapter II--Estimating National Housing Volume

Chapter III--Estimating Expenditures for New Construction

Chapter IV--Labor Required for New Construction

Chapter VI--Measurement of Industrial Employment

Chapter VII--Hours and Earnings in Nonagricultural Industries

Chapter X--Wholesale Price Indexes

Chapter XII--Studies of Occupational Wages and Supplementary Benefits

*Union Wages and Hours: Building Trades, July 1, 1954. BLS Bulletin 1175. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 30 cents.

"Revised Wholesale Price Index of Building Materials," Construction, March 1952, pp. 3-8. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Division of Construction Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

"A Description of the Revised Wholesale Price Index." Serial No. R.2067. Monthly Labor Review, Feb. 1952. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Wholesale Prices, 1951 and 1952. BLS Bulletin 1143. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 30 cents.

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